

Racquet World

Review

VOLUME 2 NO. 2
MARCH 1978
\$1.00

Dr. Bud Muehleisen Athlete of the Year

"I'd Rather Be
The Underdog!"

An exclusive interview with Jerry Hilecher

Racquetball
in the Year 2000

Building
a Racquetball
Court?

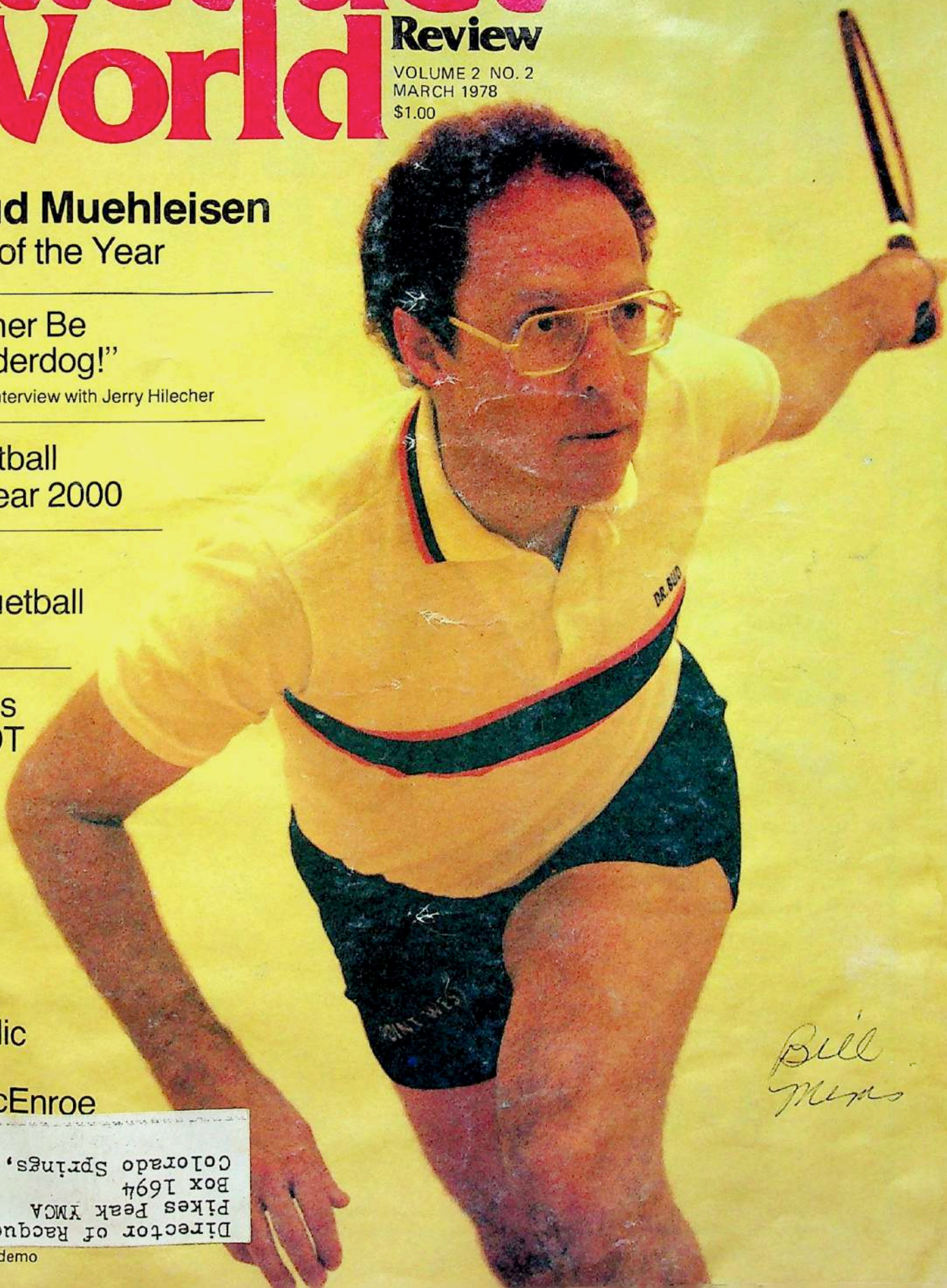
What It's
Like NOT
to be
On Top

Seven Top
Amateurs
Reveal What
It's Like

The
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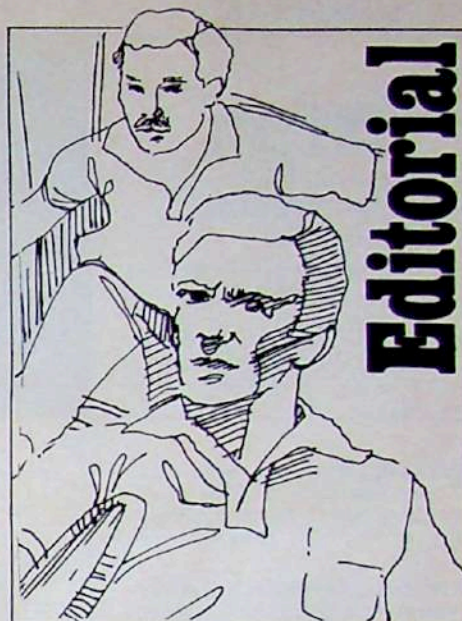


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Volume 2, Number 2
March 1978



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Just a small note to all our readers and faithful subscribers saying thank you from the staff of T&RN.

Now that we are entering into our second big year, we would like to take time out to bring you up to date on our latest plans.

First and foremost, Tennis and Racquet News has changed its name to Racquet World. We feel that with the expanded coverage of the racquet sports that this new title will be more appropriate.

We can't thank those of you who supported us in the beginning, enough for your patience and faith that T&RN would be a lasting publication.

Second, we plan to share with you the wonderful letters of praise which we receive every day in regard to our wide array of coverage of the racquet sports.

Also, plans are being laid for a classified section which will appear in the back of our magazine. Those of you who wish to use this section may send your ads and messages at this time.

Although predominately a regional magazine, our P.O. Box is constantly yielding subscriptions and letters from other states (and several other countries). With support like this we can only feel the utmost sense of accomplishment in what we have done in the past and what we will bring to you in the future.

Our scope of coverage will be enlarged and we will do our best to bring you the best shots our cameras can produce.

And so, in closing, we the staff and crew of RACQUET WORLD thank you once again from the bottom of our hearts for your continued support. Keep those cards and letters coming, and don't be discouraged if we are a little slow in responding. They *are* being read and answered as fast as possible.

From the staff of
Racquet World

RACQUET WORLD/3

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TENNIS/Virginia Slims Championship (Oakland). March 29-April 2.

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TENNIS/44th Ink Memorial Juniors Tennis Tournament. San Diego. April 8-9, 15-16.

11

TENNIS/3rd Warner Center Racquet Club Invitational Doubles Tournament. Woodland Hills. April 11-15.

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TENNIS/5th SCSTS Spring Seniors Tennis Tournament. Claremont. April 12-16.

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WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p>SEND YOUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND NEWS TO RACQUET WORLD REVIEW P.O. BOX 1037 CORONADO, CA 92118</p>	<p>1</p> <h1>April</h1> <p>TENNIS/University of So. Calif. vs. So. Calif. All-Stars Team Match. Coronado. April 1-2.</p> <p>TENNIS/Byron DeMott Memorial Invitational Seniors Tennis Tournament. Goleta. March 30-31, April 1-2.</p>
	<p>13</p>	<p>7</p> <p>DON'T MISS THE DISCOUNTED SUBSCRIPTION RATES SUBSCRIBE NOW SEE PAGE 43 FOR SUBSCRIPTION FORM</p>	<p>8</p> <p>TENNIS/1st Vista Tennis Club Mini-Circuit. April 8-9, 15-16. May 20-21, 27-28. June 3-4.</p> <p>TENNIS/41st San Bernardino Tennis Tournament. April 8-9, 15-16.</p>
	<p>14</p> <p>RACQUETBALL/Kidney Foundation Benefit Racquetball Tournament at George Brown's Handball & Racquet Club, 5205 Kearny Villa Rd., San Diego. (714) 297-0616 April 14-16.</p> <p>TENNIS/Bufsums' Kodel Mixed Doubles. Long Beach. April 14-16.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>TENNIS/Southern California Girls Invitational Tennis Tournament at Polytechnic. Pasadena. April 15-16.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>TENNIS/29th Racquet Cup Invitational Doubles Tennis Tournament. Palm Springs. April 21-23.</p>
	<p>27</p> <p>TENNIS/79th Ojai Valley Tennis Tournament. April 27-30.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>TENNIS/Bufsums' Kodel Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament. San Diego. April 28-30.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>World Racquet Championships at Atlas Health Club in San Diego, CA. Marty Hogan/Racquetball, Vila Guillermo/Tennis, Sharil Khan/Squash, Flemming Dell/Badminton, Dan Seemiller/Table Tennis and Hillary Hilkins, first woman representative in the World Racquet Championship. For more information call (714) 298-9321. April 22-23.</p> 

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Safety Thong—connected to frame for added safety	✓		
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WTT LINESMEN READY??

By Joseph Dittler

A revolution is taking place in the game of tennis. The game, which had been professional for so many years, has been held back in numerous ways by its officiating, or lack of such.

Players once were required not only to play the game but to referee their own matches. Even today, many junior tournaments and early rounds of open tournaments require players to administer their own level of fairness.

With the recent explosion of popularity in tennis came the challenge match, where a player could win \$100,000 in prize money for one match. The loser could win just as much in endorsements

by simply wearing a certain kind of shoe, using a certain type of string in his racket or even wearing the logo of an airline on his shirt sleeve. In other words, the game of tennis was being spelled M...O...N...E...Y.

With the stakes now so incredibly high, every point carries a distinct amount of prize money on it. For example, if the average game carried ten points, if the average set consisted of ten games, and if the average match were three sets, then in a match offering \$100,000 as first prize (as in the challenge matches) each point would be worth over \$300. With the points carry-

ing such a monetary value, the player can no longer be trusted to call his own lines, no matter how fair he may be.

Thus we come to the subject of officiating. Although tennis has grown professionally, the system of officiating has remained a poorly organized field. Once, the background needed to referee a match was next to nothing, and the requirements for calling lines were even less. Line judges varied in ability from one town to the next, with some being extremely knowledgeable. But for the most part, they ranged from sleepy senior citizens to weekend housewife play-

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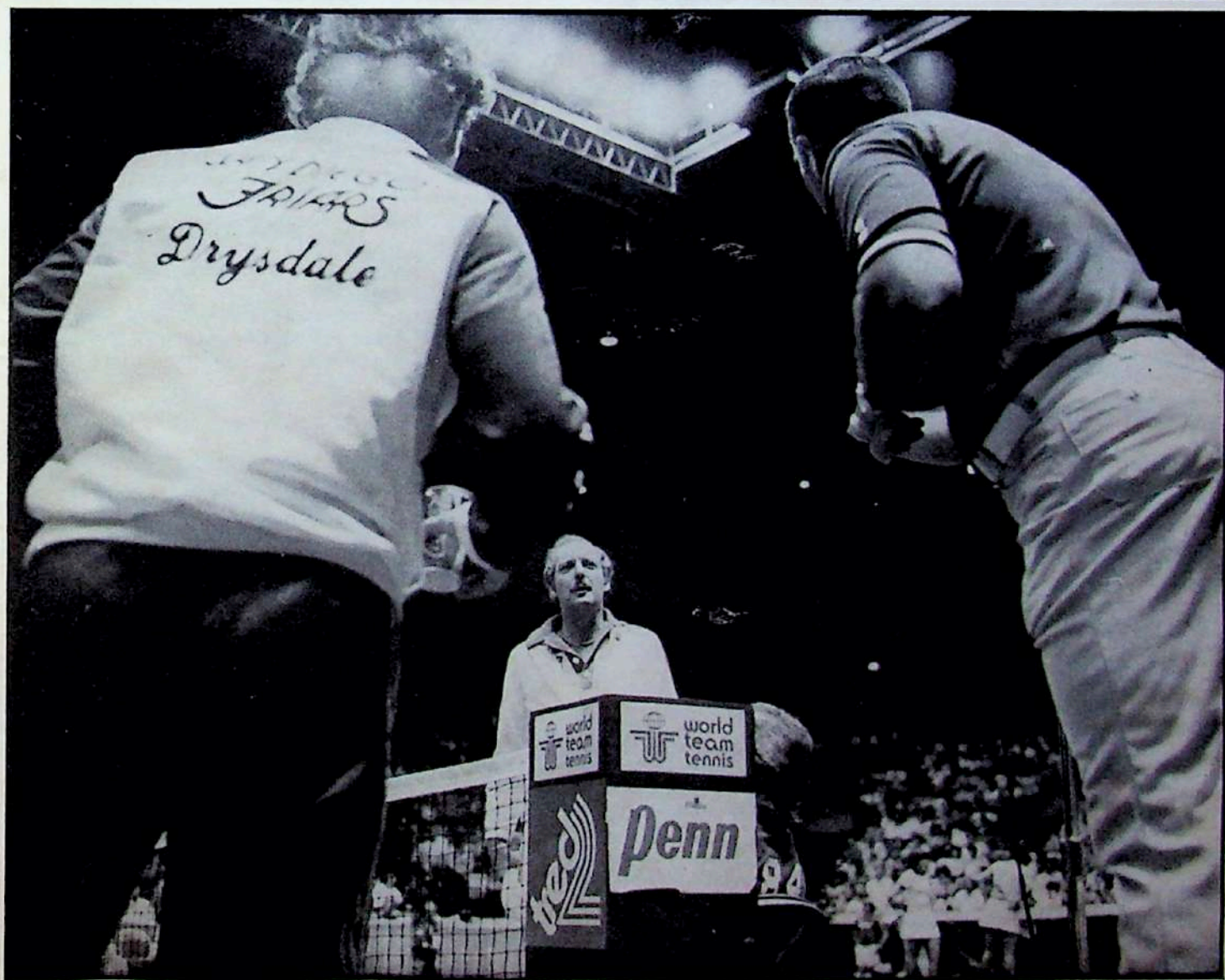
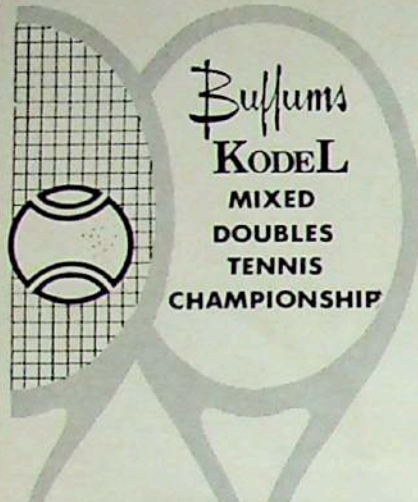


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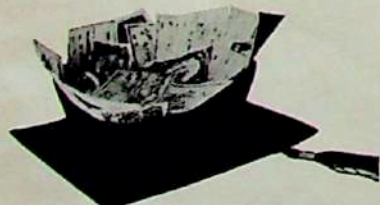


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WTT LINESMEN READY??

Text continued from page 13

ers who believed that the term "deuce" referred to two aces.

World Team Tennis, as a relatively new organization in the spotlight, has brought several changes to the game, including the rules and officiating. It encourages crowd participation (which makes the arena take on the appearance of a Roman Colosseum) in the form of yells and cheers for the favorite team or player. They have changed the scoring format drastically, and have eliminated lines on the court, replacing them with (different) colored sections. The alleys became one color, while the two service squares and the backcourt still different colors, the theory being that the ball would be easier to see.

Yet another idea practiced at WTT matches is the use of fewer linesmen on the court. A Team Tennis event consists of one umpire (who stands continuously, as opposed to sitting in the umpire chair) and four linesmen, who call the serve, then run to a position in the back of the court to call the remainder of the point.

The theory of movable linesmen (whom we will refer to as "color people" because of the elimination of lines on the court) has shown a great degree of success in match play. The color people are apparently more alert, having to move continuously, and are able to get down onto the court into whatever position necessary to adequately see the ball.

At first, their movements were considered a distraction by the players and crowd, but now the color people are as accepted as fixed objects. Another problem was that some of the most respected of tennis officials could no longer be used due to excess weight or too much age. Running back and forth for sometimes four or five hours, quickly "thinned" the ranks of umpires.

As it stands now, Team Tennis is entering into its fourth year, with each year surpassing the last in every way. In retrospect, WTT has become a money-making endeavor. The league now has most of the name players in the world signed up to play, ticket sales have increased steadily with its popularity, and the public has officially accepted the new format to an age-old game of previously unchanging constitution.

One problem facing the growth of tennis, however, is that there still exists the questionable call on court. Even with the newly structured officiating, there is the possibility of human error. In the constant movement of players and um-

pires, there occur in every match questionable calls. Although fewer questionable calls exist in WTT than in the conventional scoring system, tennis fans have speculated that there appear to be more of these calls against home (local) players, made by home umpires. Surprisingly enough, this could be the case. Taking for granted that there are times during a match when a ball is so close to being out that it could have been in, one would tend to wonder if subconsciously a color person might not be influenced to go with the home team on the call. According to some players and color people, this is just the opposite. In an attempt to not show partiality, many questionable calls will go just the other way, which would explain the suspected problem.

If this is the case, something will have to be done. Possibly soon, the use of electronic sensing devices will solve the problem. Perhaps the new advancements in light and laser development will come up with something. One idea (a bit more realistic for the present) is to have the umpire association travel from city to city as a professional, highly paid entourage, thus avoiding a complete court of home-town umpires.

The present WTT way of color-calling is a vast improvement over the more common twelve-person system, despite the new problems being ironed out. There is a certain enjoyment in watching the color people in action. The fact that they are in motion, as opposed to sitting with their legs crossed, gives one a feeling of satisfaction, and the few mistakes they may make in this new process are easily forgiven.

Color people working the WTT matches made twenty to thirty dollars per match last year and, according to a San Diego color person, they will receive more this year. The conventional officiating offers anything from a hot dog and two free passes to a few dollars (very few) and some change.

Although the money is better now than ever before in this line (color) of work, the color people are not there to get rich. Likewise, they don't volunteer for this type of torture to be able to see the matches. If the truth be known, it might just be that every man and woman out there is there purely for the betterment of the game. In an attempt to keep up with the professional level of the game itself, these people have given up evenings with their families, perspired pounds (literally) at each match, and put up with the relentless, never ending criticism from the fans. After all, isn't the man in the third row of the loge in a better position to call that ball??

Not yet at a level of full acceptability by the fans and players, those color people are doing a hell of a job and you can bet that until a better way comes along, they will continue to strive for the perfect call . . .

Baselines

Beverly Hills Kiwanis To Host Celebrity Tournament

The House of Iran will present the First Annual Beverly Hills Kiwanis Club Celebrity Tennis Tournament at the Riviera Country Club on Saturday, June 3. There will be two phases to the tournament that will take place on eight courts between 5:00 — 10:00 PM.

On center court there will be a men's round robin celebrity tournament made up of 16 personalities from motion pictures and television. On the other seven courts there will be 100 competitors playing doubles in two different shifts. Court champions will be declared on each court.

Anyone is eligible to participate in the doubles tournament. Entry fee is \$20.00 per person which includes competition in the tournament, tennis balls, a buffet dinner and trophies to the winners. Nonparticipants may pay \$10.00 which will entitle them to the buffet dinner and all spectator privileges.

Anyone interested in playing in the tournament or buying spectator tickets may do so by calling 213-659-0963. (The Clearview School)

All proceeds will go to the Beverly Hills YMCA, the Learning Disabilities Information Center and the Pacific Boys Lodge.

Stadium Debate

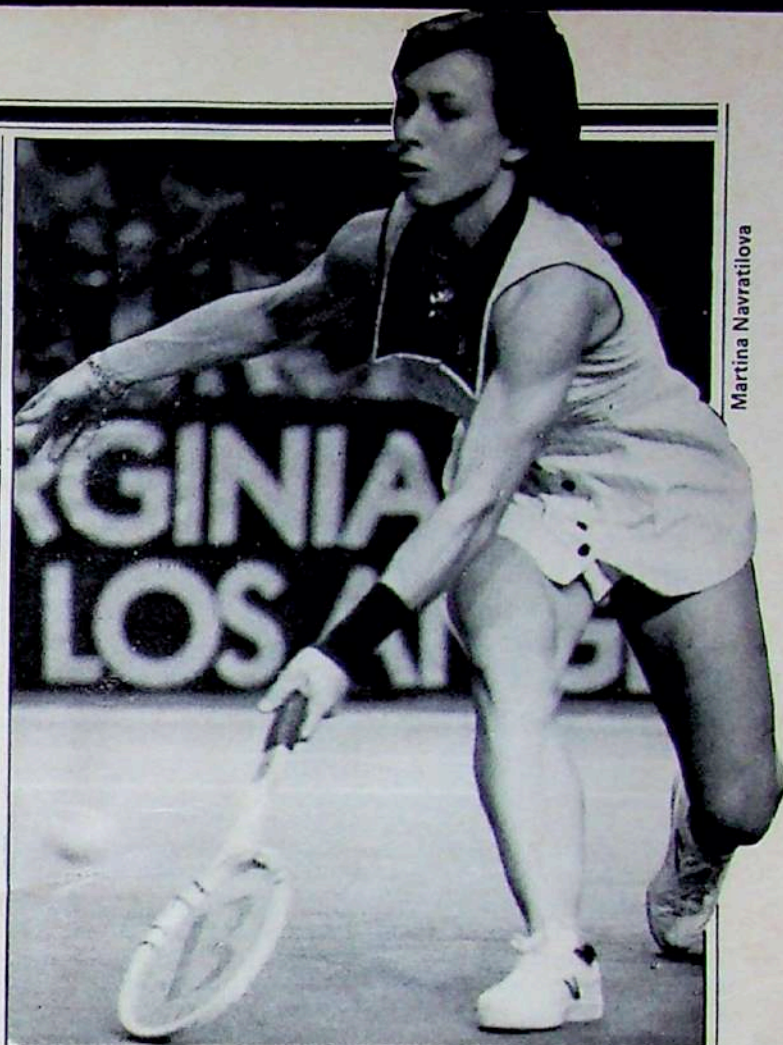
At the last San Diego Tennis Council meeting, the board took

what I feel is a giant tennis step forward. They passed two motions that should result in better use of the Maureen Connolly Stadium Court at Morley Field. As the rules stand now, permission to use the stadium can be obtained in one of two ways. First, from Park and Recreation Director, Ed Mendoza; second, from the City Council. Both are long and cumbersome procedures.

Tennis Council president, Bill Stack, appointed Jack Campbell and myself to explore the best means of renting the stadium and still stay within the perimeters of the city's recreation code. At the same meeting, Carmack Berryman, was selected to arrange regular weekend exhibition matches in the stadium and particularly among our leading juniors. Both moves were made in the hopes of having the stadium used for what it was intended, to house the best tennis events that become available to our community.

Many tournaments or special events have gone begging because the stadium was not available except as one additional court of the Folsom Tennis Center reservation sheet. The encouraging aspect is that a possible loop hole does exist, whereby the stadium may be rented for even a private venture. What may be possible is to set up a trust fund, whose coffers will ultimately be funnelled

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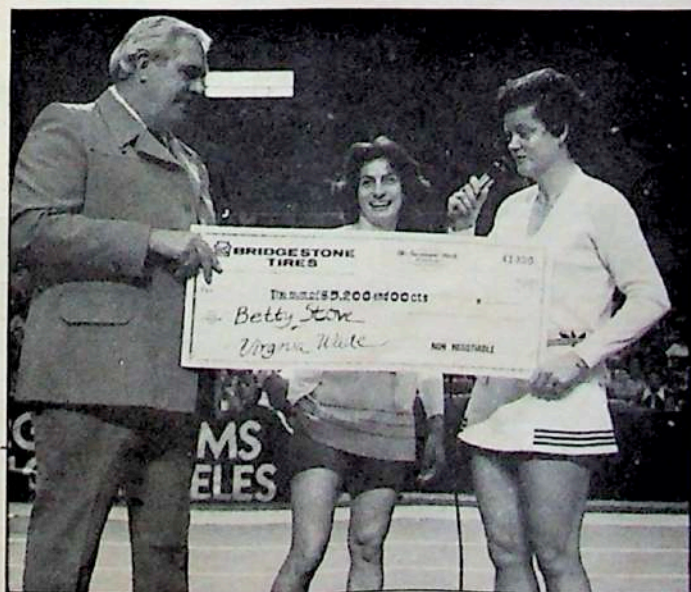


Martina Navratilova

VIRGINIA SLIMS TENNIS CIRCUIT

	Tournaments	Singles Earnings	Doubles Earnings	Totals
1. Martina Navratilova, Dallas, Texas	2	\$40,000	\$5,200	\$45,200
2. Betty Stove, Alblasterdam, the Netherlands	2	22,300	2,050	24,350
3. Evonne Goolagong, Hilton Head, South Carolina	1	20,000	150	20,150
4. Wendy Turnbull, Sandgate, Australia	3	14,150	4,500	18,650
5. Billie Jean King, New York, New York	2	11,350	5,200	16,500
6. Virginia Wade, New York, New York	3	13,350	1,600	14,950
7. JoAnne Russell, Naples, Florida	2	6,750	750	7,500
8. Kathy May, Beverly Hills, California	3	6,800	300	7,100
9. Nancy Richey, San Angelo, Texas	3	6,450	450	6,900
10. Rosemary Casals, Sausalito, California	2	3,650	2,750	6,400
11. Dianne Fromholtz, Sydney, Australia	1	5,900	300	6,200
12. Greer Stevens, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa	2	4,350	1,750	6,100
12. Virginia Ruzici, Bucharest, Romania	3	5,200	900	6,100
14. Florenza Mihai, Bucharest, Romania	3	4,650	900	5,550
15. Yvonne Vermaak, Glenconner, South Africa	3	4,500	900	5,400
16. Francoise Durr, Phoenix, Arizona	3	3,250	1,600	4,850
17. Kristien Shaw, New York, New York	3	3,250	1,500	4,750
18. Mona Guerrant, Scottsdale, Arizona	2	3,100	1,600	4,700
19. Julie Anthony, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania	3	3,250	900	4,150
20. Marita Redondo, National City, California	2	3,650	450	4,100

— Cities listed represent residence — Totals as of January 22, 1978



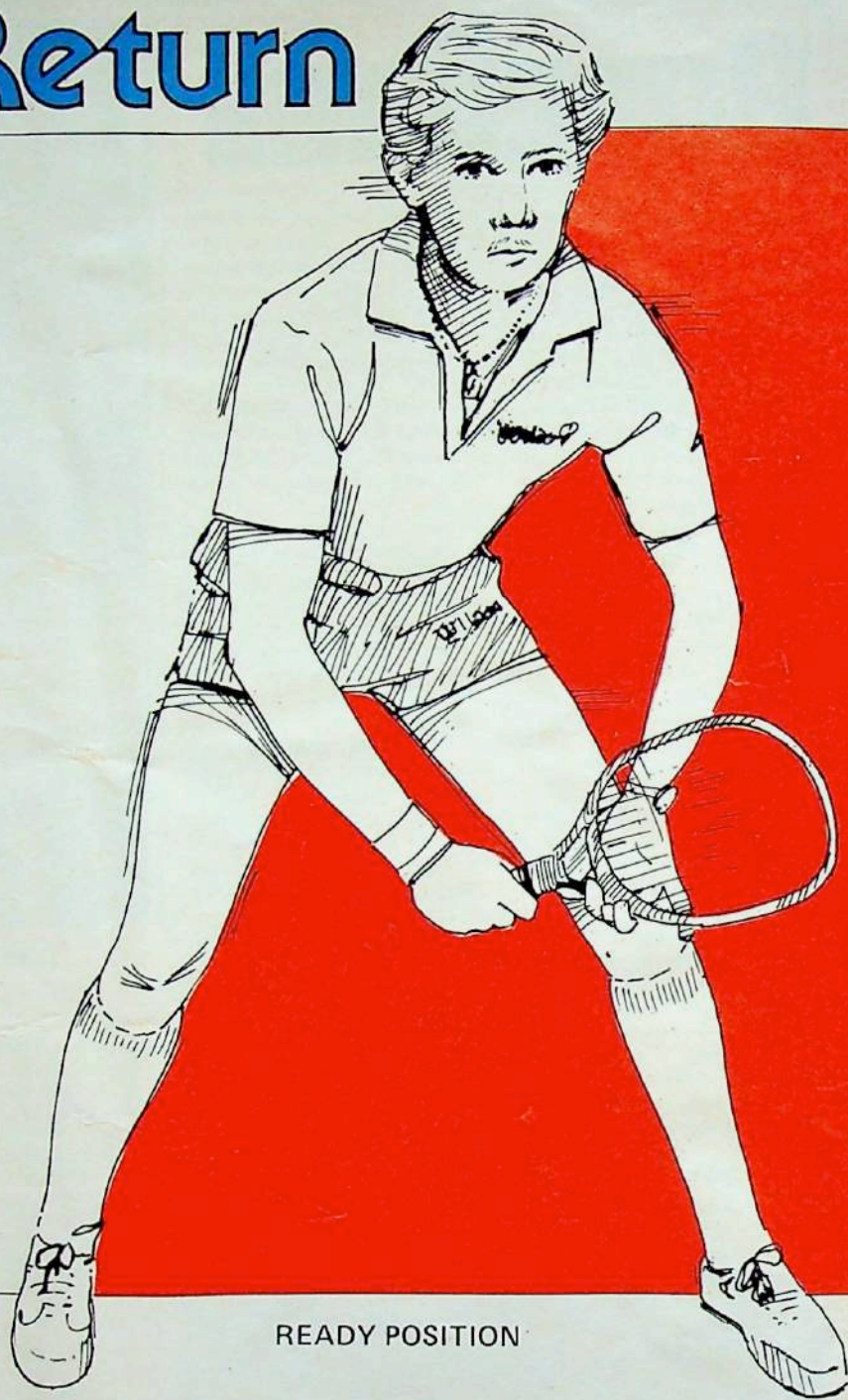
Virginia Wade and Betty Stove big winners in Women's Doubles of Virginia Slims at Los Angeles Stadium.

Service Return

By Davey Bledsoe with Jim Feeler

Service Return

Racquetball is a fast game, but just how fast, it wasn't known until recently. Last year a test was made to determine the speed of the ball on the power serve. The top pros hit their hardest ball, as instruments measured the speed. The fastest ball was a blur at 145 mph. The slowest ball was clocked slightly in excess of 90 mph. When a ball is traveling that fast you don't have time to consciously think everything out before making a return. You have to react automatically. However, the serve is more than just power, there is a great deal of finesse involved. A slow lob that slides off the wall leaves you with more than enough time to think about the return. Sometimes this can be more of a problem than when you have to react automatically. Regardless of the speed, a well executed serve will be difficult to return. Adjusting to all the service variations is one of the biggest challenges in racquetball. Everyone is aware of the importance of the return stroke, but contrary to common opinion, an effective return is based on more than just executing the stroke. The strategy and techniques that precede and influence the return are just as important, maybe even more so in the long run. In this article I'm not going to be concerned with the mechanics of any particular stroke, but with the fundamentals that precede the actual return.



READY POSITION



16/RACQUET WORLD

The Successful Return

The most impressive service return is a rollout kill. This is the perfect return and emotionally it is the most satisfying. However, if I played by my emotions and attempted to shoot a kill on every serve, I wouldn't win many games. Unfortunately, it just isn't possible to consistently kill the ball off of the serve.

I've noticed that beginners appear satisfied if they do no more than simply return service. This is understandable, but it is not satisfactory; you need to accomplish something more positive than just returning the serve. The server has a tremendous advantage. He has control over the ball and center court position. You cannot afford to make

any mistakes, as an error on the return usually results in a point. A realistic objective on the return would be to neutralize the server's advantage. You can accomplish this by executing a "defensive return" that will force your opponent out of center court and into a defensive situation. This constitutes a realistic service return strategy — eliminate the server's advantage and force him into a rally or weak return.

Shot Selection

When the ball is served you have a decision to make. What type of return should I use to neutralize the server's advantage? A ceiling ball, cross court pass, down the wall drive, Z ball or kill shot? At one time or another, depending

upon the type of serve and service execution, it may be wise to use any one of these shots. Generally, the top players rely on a down the wall ceiling ball as a standard return. It fulfills the goal of forcing the server out of center court and into a defensive position. The ceiling ball has a higher percentage of success in accomplishing these goals than any other return. Beginners may find it difficult to control a down the wall ceiling ball without hitting the side wall. Nine times out of ten, when this happens the ball will pop out for an easy set up. For this reason, I advise the beginner to hit his ceiling ball into the middle court area, avoiding the side wall problem. However, don't pattern yourself, throw in an occasional

drive or pass shot just to keep your opponent honest. These shots will be particularly effective when they are least expected. Look upon the ceiling ball as the backbone of a good service return strategy, but not as an inflexible rule.

Play The Percentages

Most intermediate players are not sure when to use or pull off a particular shot.

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Illustrations by Tony Enyedy

Service Return

Text continued from page 17

More often than not, they make the wrong choice. Their problem is not necessarily how to execute a particular shot, but when. The biggest difference between the advanced and intermediate player is the ability to "play smart". The advanced player has learned how to play the percentages. A simple rule to playing the percentages is — exercise a little self control and limit your return to whichever shots have the highest probability of success! Don't rely only on your abil-

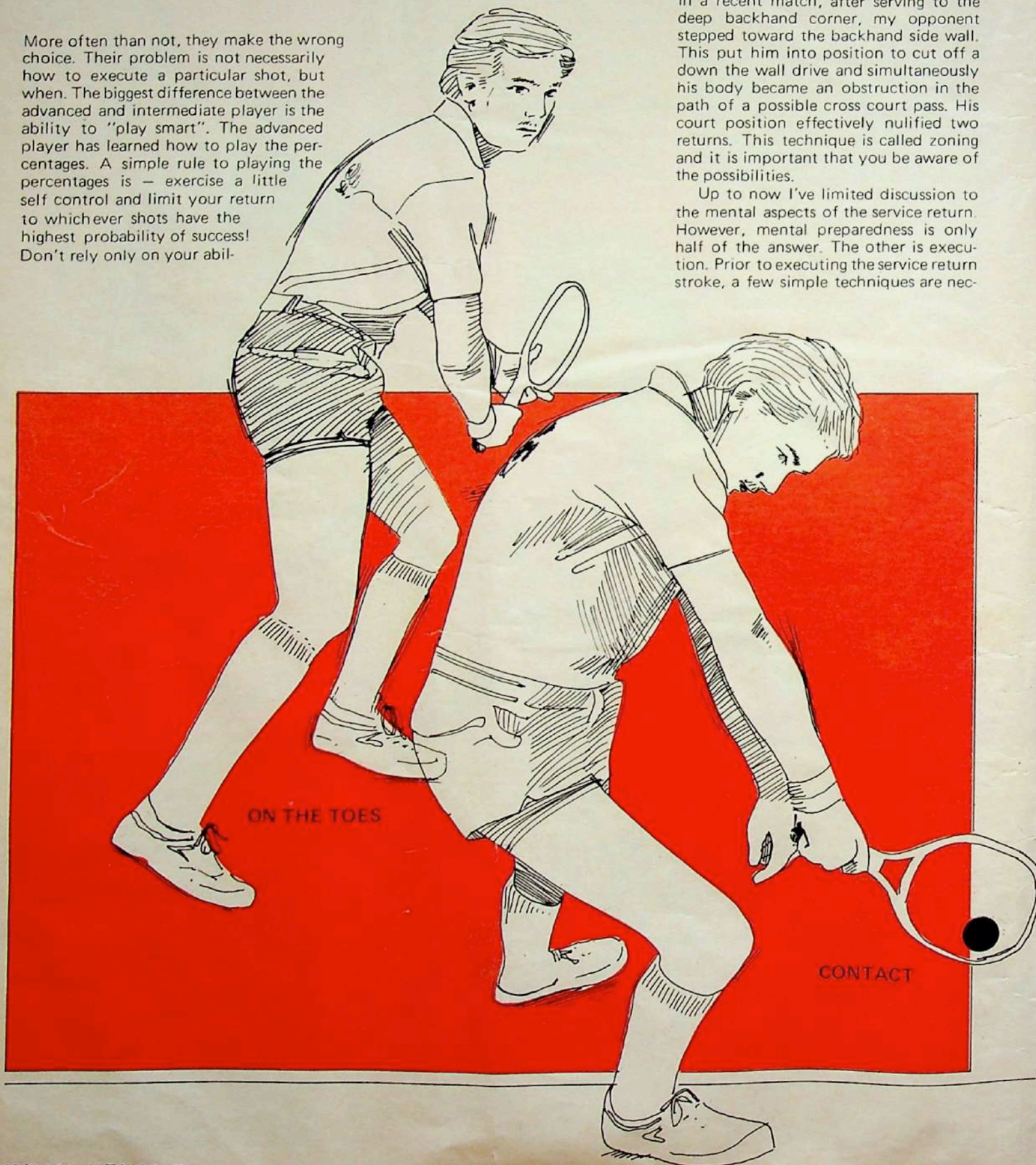
ity in executing the stroke — take the situation into account. The number of options you have will be determined by the type of serve, service execution and your opponents court position. The point is: Be patient and don't force your

shots — there's a right time for everything. (See table for service return probabilities)

Your Opponents Position

Immediately following service, your opponent can position himself in anticipation of certain returns. For example, in a recent match, after serving to the deep backhand corner, my opponent stepped toward the backhand side wall. This put him into position to cut off a down the wall drive and simultaneously his body became an obstruction in the path of a possible cross court pass. His court position effectively nullified two returns. This technique is called zoning and it is important that you be aware of the possibilities.

Up to now I've limited discussion to the mental aspects of the service return. However, mental preparedness is only half of the answer. The other is execution. Prior to executing the service return stroke, a few simple techniques are nec-



essary to get you into position. In the following portion of this article I want to emphasize this important, but, unfortunately, often neglected phase of racquetball.

Court Position For Service Return

Position yourself in the middle court area approximately an arm and racquet length from the back wall. From this point you can cover all of the important service return areas in the shortest possible time.

Ready Position

In the ready position, the knees and elbows are bent and the back is comfortably arched. The feet should be approximately shoulder wide and pointed toward the front wall. Your weight should be distributed equally between both feet. The depth of the crouch is determined by the amount of flexion at the knees, not by bending the waist. This stance is designed to facilitate quick lateral movements, eliminating any extra motion before reacting to the serve. One point to remember — never lean in anticipation of the serve.

Racquet And Grip Position

Hold the racquet in front of your body and cradle the neck with your free hand. This position allows rapid movement into either the forehand or backhand stroke positions. Initially, I assume the backhand grip position because approximately 80% of service is directed to this side. If service is directed toward the forehand, the grip change is made with assistance from the free hand. Eventually you should execute grip change with the racquet fingers.

Pivot And Step Over

The instant you recognize service direction (for example to the left), pivot with your left foot and push off with the right. Step over by transferring your weight to the left foot and bring the right leg over and across. Complete the movement by redistributing your weight on the right foot and bringing the back leg up into position. Immediately get up on your toes. This is necessary to allow for any final adjustments. The basic footwork for the backhand and forehand movements are mirror images of one another. Notice how the number of steps required to move into position is at a minimum. The technique is so simple and efficient that it will become natural almost immediately.

Your Visual Field

In the ready position, take in the entire visual scene — server, ball, court, etc. Your eye contact should shift to the ball as it rebounds from the front wall and is maintained until contact with the racquet. No conscious attempt should be made to look at your opponent. Periph-

SERVICE RETURNS AND PERCENTAGE OF SUCCESS

Serve	Ceiling Ball	Cross Court Pass	Kill	Down The Wall Drive	Z-Ball
Z-Serve To Forehand	70%	15%	5%	10%	—*
Z-Serve To Backhand	70%	10%	5%	15%	—*
Garbage To Forehand	80%	15%	—*	5%	—*
Garbage To Backhand	80%	5%	—*	15%	—*
Lob To Forehand	80%	10%	5%	5%	—*
Lob To Backhand	80%	5%	5%	10%	—*
Drive To Forehand	85%	5%	5%	5%	—*
Drive To Backhand	85%	5%	5%	5%	—*

eral vision will take care of that automatically. You will discover that you can concentrate on the ball and still be aware of your opponent and his court position.

Court Position After Service Return

Preferably you should always flow back in the direction of center court, but be practical and let the situation dictate your position. A common mistake of beginners is attempting to occupy center court after every return. In the event of a ceiling ball rally, an individual would run himself ragged. The correct court position will depend upon your ability to anticipate your opponents hit. Exercise a little patience and don't expend unnecessary energy!

Putting It All Together

A familiar proverb states that "experience is the best teacher". In service return this is generally true. Solitary practice is necessary to refine your stroke, but you need game experience in evaluating the serve, your opponents position, computing the highest percentage return, reacting to the serve and finally, executing the stroke. It's no wonder a beginner feels successful when he is simply returning the serve. Fortunately, improvement begins as soon as you become aware of the principles of a successful return. Put-

ting all the mental and physical elements of a return together is not too difficult, if you are willing to expend the necessary effort and concentration. When you have specific goals and the right physical response is made, all the sensory and complementary muscle memory (kinesthetic images) information is stored for future use in a similar situation. In this way we use unconscious memories of past experience to react automatically to the serve, even when a large number of possibilities exist. You can help this learning process along by maintaining a high level of awareness during the game. In the ready position assume an attitude of relaxed concentration, by being totally aware of the present. If you find yourself becoming bored, stay away from the game awhile, play when you are enthusiastic. You will be amazed at how fast you improve. If you allow your mind to wander during the game, you are bound to repeat the same mistakes over and over. In summary — to make a successful service return — force your opponent out of center court, change his play from offense to defense, play the percentages, execute simple techniques and, by all means, remain flexible to changing situations. The more game experience you have, the more it will all come together ●

* These shots have a very low percentage and should seldom be used.

Old Age?

By Larry Willens

Assistant Coach of San Diego Friars



Larry Willens and Mona Guerrant

In 1978 three Friars will enter a new decade. Rod Laver and I will be 40. Mona Guerrant will be 30. Along with the three of us will be two other

"oldsters." Cliff Drysdale will be 37 and Kerry Reid will be 31. At press conferences Cliff and I are often asked about our version of the "Over the Hill Gang." Being the elder statesman of the Friar coaching staff, I love to answer the questions.

Age is a word, nothing more. Old age is simply two words. We seem to be "past our prime" because society thinks athletes are no good after a certain age. That is ridiculous. A person is as old as he or she feels. And the San Diego Friars feel great. Perhaps we have dealt with our age better than others.

To me, dealing with age means two things. Taking care physically and mentally. The Friars do both. In an earlier article I wrote about stretching exercises that Kerry Reid and I do before practicing. We all do those exercises. The neck, back, arm and leg muscles are all carefully stretched before hitting the ball. We warm up very slowly on the court, meaning we start by hitting the ball softly and work up.

During our practices we (the Friars)

push ourselves harder than any other team, as we are able to handle hard work. We are in better physical condition than other teams because of the hard work. I know the limitations of each of my players and I push each player to that limit. Those limits increase as the season progresses. At the completion of a workout or a match my players put on a warm-up jacket and pants no matter how warm the weather is. This is to keep body heat from dropping too quickly.

I will continue to push myself physically for as many years as I feel good. Each individual is the best judge of how he or she feels. I have built myself up to playing about four hours of tennis per day. I also do weight training three times a week which includes running. I did not just jump into this program, but have slowly worked my way into it. Hopefully I will continue to increase my routine.

The mental outlook to age is far more important than the physical. The Friars are a "young" team because we think young. First of all, we do not allow the comments about our age to bother us. We joke with everyone else about age, but we beat people. Secondly, we work at growth. People who are young

No Way!

Merely A Mental Outlook



Cliff Drysdale



Kerry Reid (L) and Mona Guerrant (R)

continue to grow if they work at it. We all read papers, magazines and books, have team discussions about world affairs and we sight-see in cities while playing away matches. When I first met Laver and Drysdale I was amazed at their awareness of and interest in the world. I was concerned about their age until I realized that they felt young physically and were very much alive mentally.

There is a tremendous amount of experience within the Friars' team. This helps us because we know just how much we can do at any given time. If we need to stop for the day we do so.

There is no way a person can give more than 100%, very few give anywhere close. The Friars have a tremendous amount of pride, both in ourselves as individuals and in the team. Because of this tremendous pride we are able to give 100% during every match. We spend more time in the locker room after matches than any other team due to physical and mental exhaustion. We simply do not know how to give up.

Five of the six players from the 1977 Friars will be back in 1978: Kerry Reid, Mona Guerrant, Raz Reid, Rod Laver and Cliff Drysdale. I will also be back to help Cliff lead them. We finished third in our division last year and beat the second place team in the playoffs. We played 11 Super-tiebreakers and were close in every match. Our fans were never disappointed. And I guarantee a *better* finish in '78. "Washed up?" "Over the Hill Gang?" No Way! ○



Rod Laver

By Nancy Martin

"I PREDICT . . ."

RACQUETBALL IN THE YEAR 2000

In the year 2000, we will be moving into an advanced technological era, so highly sophisticated that it boggles the mind to imagine the future world of tomorrow. There will be more people, more exploration, more solutions to present-day problems, more problems to solve, more books, more movies, and definitely more games.

Speaking of games, I am sure that Racquetball will be well on its way to a kind of complexity unheard of five years ago. Racquetball will be right up there with MacDonald's hamburgers — a national institution. Although the arches will still be gold at the turn of the century, we will probably see the following dreams come true. These cataclysmic events will not only enhance the game we all know and love, but these changes will also add a new dimension to the sport and elevate it to its rightful place in the world as the Number One athletic event for health, for fun, and, of course, for sociability . . .

In the year 2000, the Racquetball world will see:

1. Licensed referees — knowledgeable human beings experienced in the art of calling avoidables as well as technicals. (Some refs may even have bionic eyes!)
2. Closed circuit TV at Tournaments televising all matches — the lounge will be equipped with miniature Sonys.
3. Gloves for little hands, the kind of appendages as are found on the species called women and children.
4. Traveling teams who will compete

with each other, organized similar to that of National Baseball and Football, including the All-Star game and the World Series.

5. Racquetball taught in every public Junior High School and Senior High School in the country and, maybe, even Elementary School (depending on how many students skip class to get a morning court or sleep late on the Monday following a Tournament.)
6. More people building their own courts instead of their own swimming pools. On January 5th, it would be most difficult to swim in your own pool if you lived in Skokie, Illinois. Of course, you could attach an ice cutter to your suit . . .
7. Age divisions and sex divisions at Tournaments so that pre-ten year olds could compete. Then young girls could compete with young girls, instead of the He-Men that nine year old boys are rapidly developing into.
8. A central information center that will have dates, times, places, and entry forms for all tournaments across the United States. Instead of Espionage, the CIC will devote its energy to unifying Racquetball.
9. International Competition. The World Tournament will really be a world tournament. Now there will be swearing in foreign languages when the ball skips!
10. A new event added to the Olympics. The gold medal will probably be

given to the country with the most roll-outs . . .

11. Every College P.E. department offering Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced Racquetball. How many of you would have gotten an "A" in Introduction to Racquetball 101?
12. Municipal four-wall courts springing up all over. If the city doesn't take up the cost, a fee of 25 or 50 cents will be charged to cover the postage and handling — I mean, painting, dusting, and replastering.
13. A mini-tournament going on while the regular tournament is being played. This new exciting event will allow the players' children to participate instead of eating most of the food at the snack table. Just think of all the little Marty's we will be producing.
14. ONE STANDARD BALL that we will all agree to use.
15. A senior women's bracket in all tournaments — even a master's and a golden master's. Ladies, think of your birthday 23 years from now!
16. A family rate for more than one tournament entrant from the same family in the same tournament.
17. The results of all games fed to a computer. I suspect this practice will eliminate the chance of a ringer entering the lower division bracket. He wouldn't want to be blacklisted for a piece of fools gold called a trophy.
18. Swingsets built next to Racquetball clubs. The kids have to wait a long, long time when the match goes into a tie breaker.
19. Professional Tournament Directors. People now wait in line at the Unemployment Office. Let's hear it for Racquetball for creating new jobs! You will see an add in the paper that reads:
"Interesting job — long hours but fun work. You get to deal with all kinds of people and temperaments. Must have a strategic mentality. Enroll in our training program and learn how to run prestigious Racquetball Tournaments."
20. And the year 2000 will definitely see a Racquetball Hall of Fame with bronzed busts of all the great players, that the world deals so nonchalantly with at present. These men and women will finally be honored for their talent and enjoy the glory that goes along with a recognized celebrity. If the sculptor doesn't finish the mold on time, we'll either see the gossip columnist commenting on who went out to dinner together after the match, or at least, the very least, the results of the game will appear on the Sports page . . . (hopefully).

Rebounds

\$5 Rebate From Omega's New Pro-II Racquet

Racquetball players who purchase Omega's new Pro-II racquet between now and April 15, 1978 will receive a \$5 rebate, simply send the original copy of the sales receipt along with the completed racquet warranty card.

The Pro-II model is Omega's top-of-the-line racquet, backed by the only 5-year warranty available on the market today. The Pro-II features Omega's innovative "total frame" design in which the frame extends completely to the butt of the handle and is bonded to polyurethane. This new model is extremely lightweight, weighing only 265 grams. The Pro-II is 18 1/2" long and is available in grip sizes of 4 3/8", 4 1/8", and 3 7/8". The 3 7/8" grip is another Omega exclusive, designed to allow easier and more powerful wrist action.

For more information or if you are unable to find Omega at retail, contact Omega Sports, 2366 Schuetz Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63141 or call (314) 872-9007.

sporting goods manufacturing, advertising and public relations, a law firm real estate development company, a racquetball consulting firm, and a major industrial corporation. So strong is the group that it is now entering into agreements with other racquetball clubs to take on the management of their operations.

Prior to opening its doors, two years of research was conducted on racquetball clubs throughout the United States to determine the key components of successful racquetball club operations.

Certain that there will be an overgrowth situation in racquetball as there has been in other fields, the Racquetfun concept is designed for the long haul. The principals feel it is adequately protected against not only severe competition but depressions, recessions, and downturns in the economy.

The basic concept is to sell a minimum-cost one year membership at \$50 for singles and \$65 for families. This gives members access to court usage, which is paid for on an hourly basis. There

ated within its 10-court club a 530 sq. ft. nursery, fully equipped with exercise equipment, teaching materials, and games. In addition, a 250 sq. ft. patio adjoins the nursery for use in good weather normally prevalent in Huntington Beach.

Handling children up to the age of seven years, the Racquetfun nursery is far more than a baby-sitting facility. Four activities are rotated within the nursery. They are reading, games, exercise and art. The average number of supervisors on duty in the nursery are two, but there may be as many as four, as the facility accommodates up to 40 children, and one supervisor is provided for every 10 children. Teaching materials are basic, including books, blackboard and chalk, blocks, watercolors, paper and crayons. Because of the short span of attention of young children, time is spent approximately half in a learning experience, with the other half in playing or just relaxing.

The hours of the nursery are from 8:30 to 4:00, Monday through Friday; 7:30 to 10:00 p.m., Monday nights; 1:30 to 5:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. There is no charge for the nursery in either daytime, night-time, or weekends. Staff members are paid by the hour, with volunteer workers given court-time in exchange for working as assistants under a professional supervisor.

With the kind of service that Racquetfun offers in its nursery and in other aspects of the Club, it is easy to see why it is so successful. With a great proliferation of clubs around the country, it certainly will be the quality of service, as well as the facilities, that make the difference in who will survive and prosper.

Hart Johnson — More Than A Face In The Crowd

San Diego — 1978 has started off as good as 1977 ended for Ektelon's Hart Johnson of St. Paul, Minnesota. In November, Hart won the Men's B championship in the AMF Voit Classic in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, defeating 123 men.

In December, Hart Johnson celebrated his 14th birthday.

For his accomplishment at St. Louis, Hart was featured in the "Faces in the Crowd" section of the January 9th issue of Sports Illustrated Magazine.

Johnson is an eighth grader, at Highland Park Jr. High School where he is a student council member and excels at basketball, soccer and track as well as racquetball.

But it's racquetball that has brought Hart into the limelight. And, Ektelon has been sponsor-

ing him since he was 10.

Last year he captured the Senior Men's A division championship at the Lilydale, Minnesota, Autumn Tournament and was runner up in the U.S.R.A. National Juniors Event in Evergreen Park, Illinois.

If Hart's rate of racquetball prowess grows in the next decade as it has up to this point, it wouldn't be unreasonable to watch for a national champion.



Tennis Pro Discovers Racquetball

When the \$3/4 million Supreme Court Sports Center, adjacent to the Van Nuys Airport here, opened about a year ago, John Lester, a tennis pro at El Cabellero Country Club in the San Fernando Valley, dropped a friend off at the Sports Center. Invited in to take a look, Lester became interested and, as he put it, "from there on, I just kept going."

Lester picked up the game in a very short period of time. He took some lessons and, within a couple of months, was facing players that had been playing for years. He competed in the Davis Club Open and continued taking lessons. "I worked hard at it as a conditioner for tennis," Lester said.

Although tennis itself is a very physically active game, Lester believes that racquetball conditions him for tennis. "Tennis does tend to keep one in condition, but if you want that little extra, you've got to try something like squash or racquetball to go beyond it."

Lester says he thinks on an amateur basis because "I'm a racquetball amateur, and my main emphasis is on physical conditioning and shot production, whereas in tennis the main emphasis is on strategy." He is usually in competition at the Supreme Court Sports Center not less than three times a week, "as a fun thing," he insists.

The tennis pro reports that, for a novice, racquetball is easier to play. "The racquets are lighter,

Text continued on page 31



Racquetfun A Formula For Success

Racquetfun, racquetball club in Huntington Beach, California, has developed an enviable record of profitable operation, even though it has been open less than a year. The answer to this success is in the successful pursuit of the three major areas of racquetball operation: promotion; service and management.

To be the first of a string of racquetball clubs throughout western United States, Racquetfun owners come from the complete spectrum of successful business management. The principals of the firm respectively are the presidents or major partners in

are no monthly dues.

Without a steady inflow of monthly income, club management must be promoting activities for its members, making sure that members get excellent benefits from the club and provide a friendly happy environment that will be attractive to the membership.

Determined in their original research was the absolute need of attracting women to fill the daylight hours. Club research showed that young mothers with young children were prime prospects for these hours. The need, of course, was to provide a facility to take care of the children. Racquetfun therefor incorpor-

BUILDING A RACC

Racquetball court clubs have met with great success throughout the United States. But simply erecting a facility and calling it a racquetball club does not insure instant success. The project should include a feasibility study, comprising three areas: Site analysis, market evaluation and finance.

I placed site analysis first because it should precede the other two, simply because if the site analysis draws poor conclusions, then there's no reason to continue further with the study. It's far better to turn to another site, rather than waste time with market research and financial advisors.

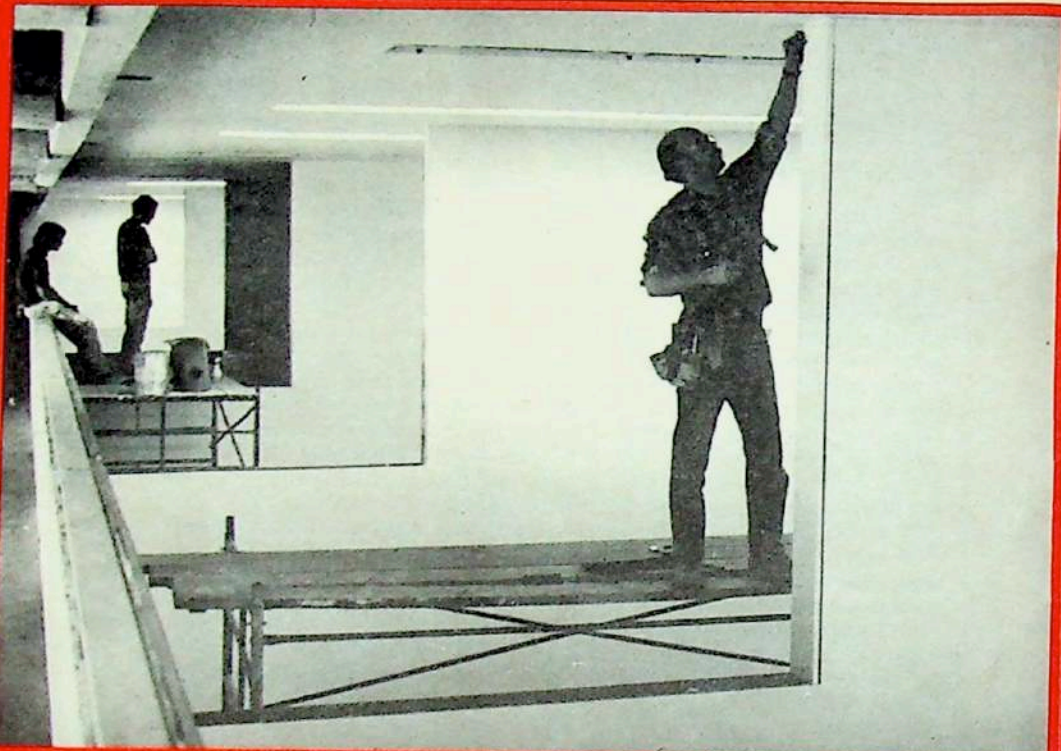
How do you approach site selection? Simply ask yourself a series of questions. Beginning with: "If I were a player, how would I travel to the court and why?" Consider freeway access, including entry and exit. Observe the nearest major arteries, both north-south and east-west, and determine the distance to the site.

List the parcel size of the site and accompanying purchase price and finally, determine the cost per square foot. Note the terms in acquiring the property, if presently unowned. List whether a broker or agent is involved in the sale and respective commissions. Note pertinent assessments on the property and itemize with a payoff schedule. Determine whether assessments are included in the purchase price, plus total amount of assessments.

Observe the general surrounding area of the site and encircle a 15 minute drive area on a map, from the perimeter to the site. Note the following: Single-family housing, apartment, condominiums, medical and dental suites, office complexes and industrial buildings. Determine the amount of each. List the present population of the city and determine whether the population is increasing or decreasing and by what rate. Observe the type of people that affect this change. Note the economic base of the city.

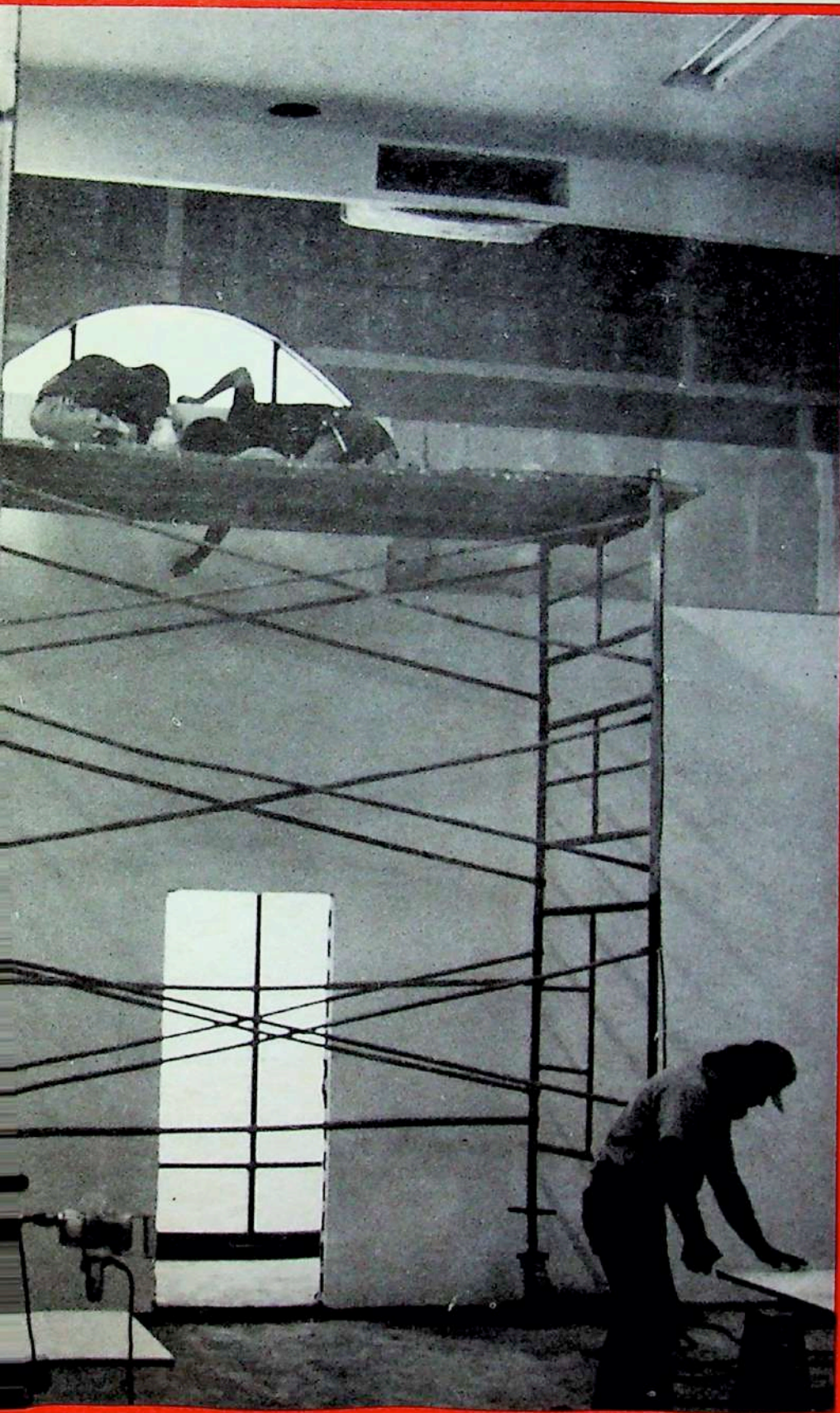
Acquire specific data on the mean income of the area, the age of the majority of the population and the major recreational activity.

Determine the number of recreational facilities in the area and more specifically the number of handball and racquetball clubs. Note whether they are public or private. Attempt to acquire their membership fees and rates and number of members at each facility. Look for any new handball or racquetball facilities



RACQUETBALL COURT?

By Dan Bialk



being planned and note their location respective to your site. Recreational facilities may include; tennis courts, bowling alleys, swimming pools, golf courses and health spas.

Next, work on zoning. Determine the existing zoning code and general plan. Can a racquetball facility be permitted under the existing zoning? If not, can rezoning be acquired? Acquire a zoning ordinance map, including all parking and site requirements. Are filing fees necessary? Note estimated times for rezoning to become effective.

What are the availabilities of utilities? Is sewer available? Look for additional requirements and costs. Determine fees, especially for sewer connection.

Determine water availability and accompanying pressure. Are there any other requirements? Note hookup fees.

Is electric service available and at what loads? What are the additional requirements and fees?

Is gas available and in what capacities? Note fees and other requirements.

Determine telephone costs, toll charges and installation fees.

Note any requirements by the city agency for site improvements. Are curbs, gutters, sidewalk and paving required? Look for drainage problems, grading and associated costs.

Have an engineer analyze the soil. Is division of land required? Review the title report.

Determine the building code, fire zone and estimated time required to obtain a building permit. Is an Environmental Impact Report or Assessment required?

Note the weather in your area. When is the rainy season? Determine average rainfall and snowfall. Observe summer temperatures and extreme changes during the day. Note the method of construction used most frequently in the area.

Forecast the availability of materials, contractors and subcontractors for the job.

Finally, contact all banks and savings and loans in the immediate area to determine their policy with regard to the facility. Note ceilings on loans and interest rates.

This feasibility study will provide the information necessary to make an intelligent decision, whether the project has merit or not. This does not discount the fact that the accumulation of such data will assist in discussing the project with respective lenders.

The Case Of The Public VS. John McEnroe

By Linda-Marie Singer

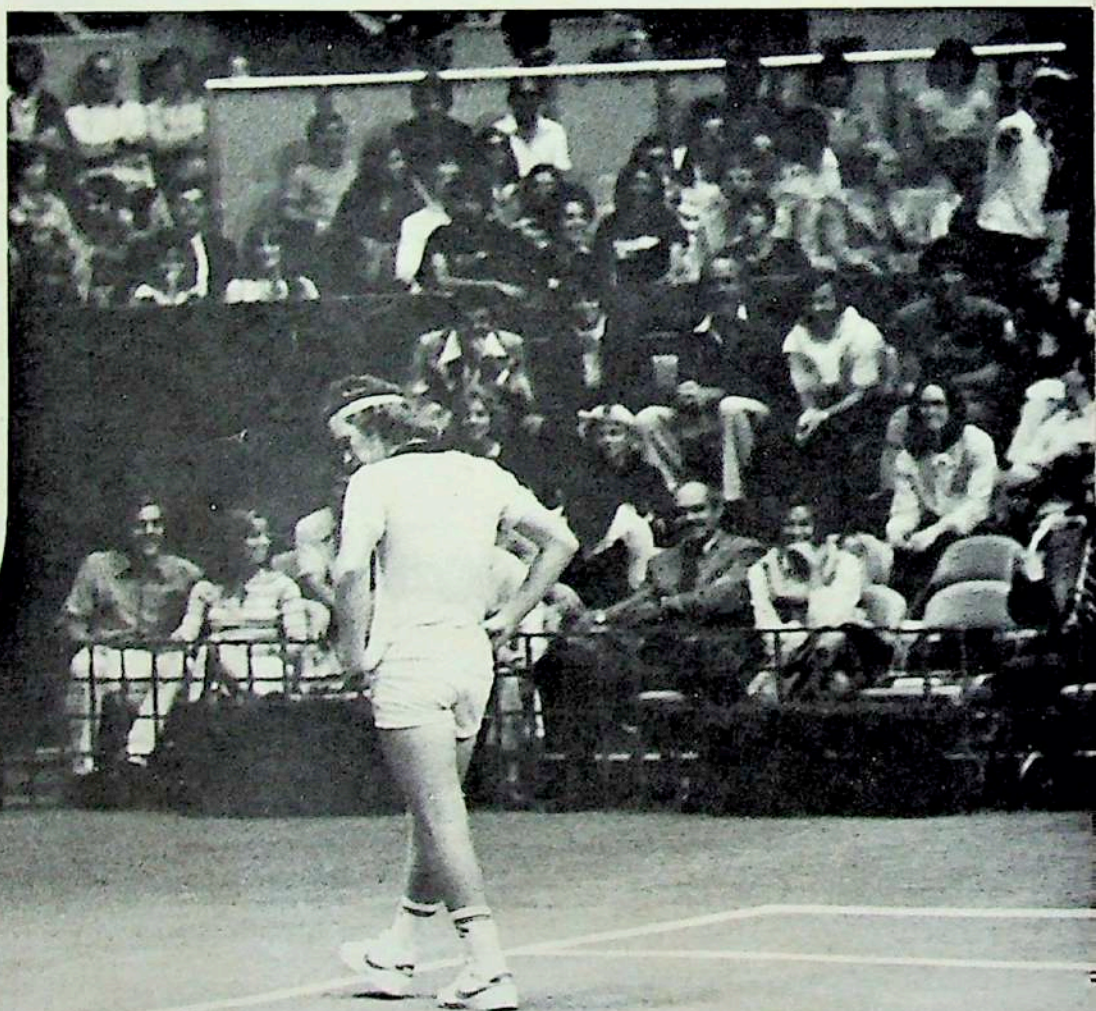
Even Rosetti & Ryan would hesitate taking on the case of John McEnroe. Pegged as an "enfant terrible," the 18 year old tennis superstar feels baited by the press and misunderstood by the public. A slip of the tongue at the prestigious Wimbledon championship cost the youngster an official reprimand that resounded all the way from the United Kingdom to Douglaston, New York, McEnroe's hometown.

"Let's put it this way, if I ask a linesman for a retraction, people in the audience yell out: 'Grow up, you brat!' They don't understand what I'm saying, but do they react! I could be saying, 'S-----

You' or 'What are you doing tomorrow night?' but it's too late. The people have already judged me."

Indeed they have. As he was the youngest person ever to reach the semifinals at the 100 year old competition, his name quickly became a household word; the association, however, isn't always that flattering.

Case in point: The San Francisco Transamerica Open where Cliff Richey (Former Bad Boy) met John McEnroe (Current Bad Boy). Due to John's erratic behavior, Richey lectured him in front of several thousand spectators. "Why don't you act like a gentleman for a



change?" Richey blurted. To no avail. Maybe another player would have felt a twinge of embarrassment, but if John felt humiliated he didn't show it. Publicly, that is. Privately, the teenager commented bitterly: "The whole thing was tough. I'm a younger guy and the audience rationalizes that I shouldn't be acting a certain way. But shouldn't I be allowed to stand up for my rights?"

Psychologists undoubtedly would have a field day analyzing this "brash, young man's modus operandi. Behind his temper tantrums could be a typical case of self-fulfilling prophesy where (1) he promotes his own reputation through misconduct; and (2) the crowd reacts negatively; so (3) he feels dejected and continues to misbehave.

But whatever his strategy, there is a payoff somewhere because the McEnroe crowd is an electric one. If horns could be blown and whistles tooted, John would have his own jam session, because *reaction* is the name of his game.

Behind closed doors the young dynamo is both coy and shy. The metamorphosis of the lion on court to the lamb off court would astonish even Franz Kafka. However, The Essential McEnroe assures one that there will not be too many listless moments while today's star is holding court.

Although his bushy, sandy-colored hair and appealing build will not readily distinguish him from other adolescents, his cleverness and poise will. These qualities rarely come across in a press conference where brief questions and answers are exchanged, so the player is judged basically during the course of the game. Thus, Mr. McEnroe leaves the critic little choice but to berate him for acting immature and hostile during tournament play.

Presumably, once the tennis celebrity undergoes more experiences and stops tinkering and debating with everyone in sight, he will realize his capabilities, needs, feelings, and his potentialities will flourish. But until then...

Even his mother described her son as a "fighter" and claimed that his killer instinct was present in soccer and basketball as well as in tennis. She never excused his impulsive outbursts, and in fact has a different philosophy uncommon among "stage mothers." Like every parent she is, of course, tickled when her son wins, but strangely, feels a sense of relief when he loses, so that victory will not be taken for granted. "Whether I won or lost at Wimbledon, my mother's idea had been all along for me to attend college in the fall. Although I don't honestly see myself finishing, I at least want to



"My face tells all. Maybe I should try to conceal more, but I don't want to wind up like Borg who is just too controlled."

give it a whirl and see what it's all about."

Entering Stanford University on a full tennis scholarship and being an ordinary member of the student body will not last too long, for when winter rolls around the crackerjack amateur plans on entering many professional tournaments. "I know that athletes say this all the time, but I mean it. I haven't concentrated 100% on tennis. I really like other sports, but insofar as tennis is concerned, I don't think I've reached my peak yet. Oh, I hope not!"

The cognoscenti of the tennis world know that John is far from realizing the pinnacle of his career. He has come a long way from the little nine year old practicing on the playground courts and taking lessons with the other boys. Gradually as he entered local contests, at age eleven he found himself with a notable amount of trophies. "I never knew I was going to make it," he muses. "I just knew I liked to play. You always like to think you have a chance. I mean, being 150 in the world isn't my idea exactly of making it." (N.B. Before Wimbledon he was No. 274 in the computer rankings. After Wimbledon he was No. 65. Who knows what's next?)

Certainly against Connors, the world's top player, the New Yorker proved his strength and versatility. Some people have compared John to Jimmy, but the former doesn't think it fair. "I'd rather be known for *me* and for what I am. Let's face it. Connors is the best." Modestly he adds, "On an off day I *suppose* I could beat him, but he controlled the match at Wimbledon. A person can be up 3 sets, but it's one thing to have 3 sets on a guy and another to win. Winning is that much farther."

This unpretentiousness off court inauspiciously is absent on court. Claiming he has been trying to keep a low profile, his intensity while playing makes people think he is perpetually angry and uptight. "My face tells all. Maybe I should try to conceal more, but I don't want to wind up like Borg who is just too controlled."

"Would you like to emulate any tennis personality?" I asked.

Admittedly, tennis' glamour boy, Vitas Gerulaitis, fascinates him. John stretches his body and winks his eye before commenting: "Don't you think he overdoes it a bit? All those pretty girls and great cars?" After taking a long sip of his Coca Cola he adds, "Yeah. I'd like a nice car though, but I don't want to be thought of as the Ali of the tennis world. I'm happy with myself and don't have to brag."

It's hard *not* to blow your own horn,

Text continued on page 43

"In the world today there are too many voices, not enough years, too little love, and too many fears." Benny Sanchez is not sure whether these words were originated by him or read somewhere. No matter. The source is not so important here as the fact that for Benny they have become words to live by: his goal is to expand the love and dispel some of the fears among people whose lives touch his.

One expedient to reaching that goal will be the profession that Benny has chosen. When he graduates from San Diego State University in June he will enter the graduate school of social work with an MSW and medical social work as his targets.

But, not content to wait for an MSW before spreading the kind of love that he feels the world needs, Benny, a deeply religious young man, asked for spiritual guidance in finding a way to promote brotherly love. He found the answer in his philosophy and in a game that he enjoys.

Benny's belief that everyone should seek a balance in physical, mental, social and spiritual development led him to think of sport as a means to extend fellowship. He has had, as he put it, "some success" in racquetball tournaments and was aware of the healthy fun the sport offers, so he got together a few friends and organized "Christian Racquetball Fellowship." The group plays every Saturday from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Spring Valley Racquetball Club.

To facilitate reserving courts for the Fellowship and help keep the games running smoothly, Benny took a part-time job working at the reception counter of the Spring Valley Racquetball Club. The counter serves as an informal headquarters for the Fellowship. Between games players drape themselves comfortably over or near the counter and visit with Benny and each other. The friendly ambience makes a visitor aware that Benny's plan is working; he is fulfilling his expressed desire "to help bring into people's everyday life the kind of love that some seem to experience only in church on Sunday."

An indication of the success of the program is the steady growth in the number of participants. Benny started with "about five or six" in June, 1977. Now, from only word-of-mouth publicity, there are 32 regular players and others who play on occasion.

The age range of present players is 14-32 years, but there are no limits. Neither are there restrictions on religious beliefs. Players of all faiths who want a healthy workout in a wholesome atmosphere are welcome to play. So are players of any ability. There are in the Fellowship some strong competitive players, some beginners, and many who

Love Comes To Racquetball

Below: Sherry Lenke (L) looks more pleased with a play than her opponent, Mitzi Broke (R). Top Right: Benny Sanchez. Bottom Right: Tim Stepina.

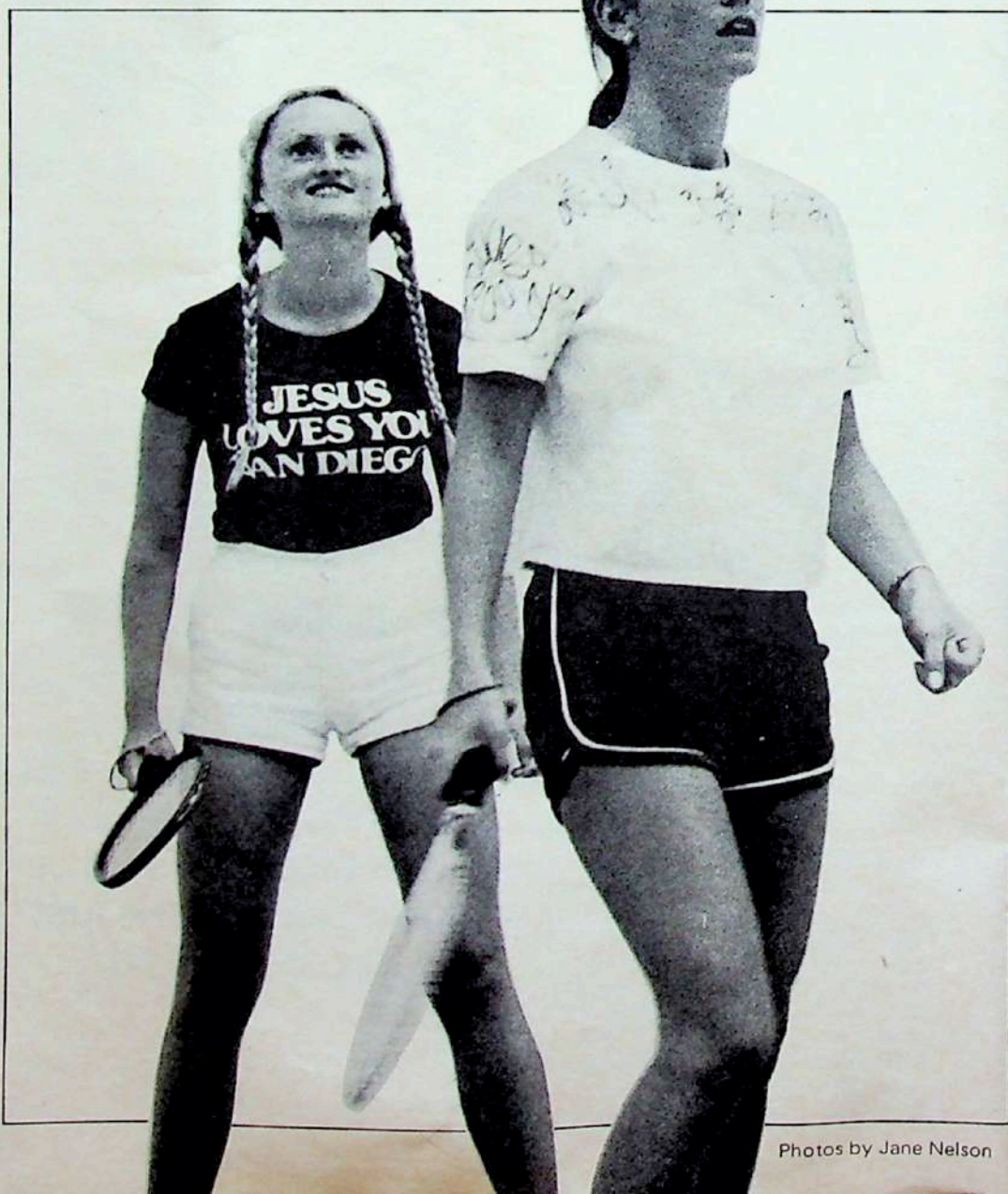
By Jane Nelson

fall between the advanced/beginner poles. Benny does a skillful job of matching players with agreeably equal ability for games of maximum pleasure for all.

Cost of playing with the group is uncommonly reasonable — a dollar per person for the two hours of play, with access to the jacuzzi, sauna and showers

included in the price.

In addition to its reasonable cost the program offers another attraction: The regularly scheduled hours provide a time



Photos by Jane Nelson

when players who want competition and fellowship can show up with or without partners or opponents and know that they can find games with congenial people.

Those who are active in the Fellowship would like to expand the program. They are eager to have more participants and to have challenges from other groups who want to play hard but have fellowship uppermost in mind. They would like eventually to have, under the umbrella of the International Racquetball Association, an International Christian Racquetball Association.

Members of the group acknowledge Benny Sanchez as the moving spirit of the Fellowship. His quiet warmth and ready smile make strangers feel welcome. He radiates the kind of love that he is eager to have others experience, and his love is infectious. Through spiritual inspiration he has apparently found what he so fervently desired — a vehicle for increasing the love and diminishing the fears in our troubled world. ●



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During the last decade, Dr. Bud Muehleisen has been a lodestone, not only for American racquetball enthusiasts, but for racquetball players, manufacturers and court club owners throughout the world. It is an extraordinary career, reaching into a past that must seem dim and remote to young professionals and aspirants today. Dr. Bud has rarely, if ever, wavered in his pursuit of offering the best racquetball available to the world in all of its aspects. It is safe to say that no other racquetball player, clinician, court builder and consultant, has in this brief history of the game, been so often quoted and so much in demand with such telling effect.

Genius may be the word for it, but it is more than that. His scrupulous dedication to the game, the unfailing

touch that has won him 35 national racquetball titles to date, is a lesson which, above all, strikes home for us today.

Graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, Dr. Bud was a member of an NCAA championship tennis team. He has been ranked nationally in badminton and holds numerous table tennis titles. He excelled in paddle ball before racquetball made its mark in today's society. Dr. Bud Muehleisen was proficient with almost anything you put in his hand, which is exemplified by his chosen profession, dentistry.

Dr. Bud, the first player elected to the Racquetball Hall of Fame, has been involved with most aspects of racquetball from the initial naming of the sport, to formulating rules of the game, serving on an association's board of directors, designing new methods of court construction and developing products for many of the current well-known manufacturers and distributors of racquetball products. Point West Industries benefits from his association

today. Point West offers the racquetball public "The Other Ball" and "The Other Glove" plus eyeguards, racquets and bags.

Is it any wonder then, that San Diego is tabbed the "Racquetball Capital of the World?" For the many who don't know the origin of this title, its roots run deep, to the man who National Racquetball Commission president, Bob Kendler, refers to as "The Father of Racquetball."

Dr. Bud's mastery on the court was formulated with the control game. His logic and clarity in style of putting all the pieces of a complex situation in their proper and reasonable place, evidence that this exciting game can be played well on into later years. He has the classic style of a Gene Littler, combined with the intelligence and drive of a Ben Hogan. Without question, he is "The Pro's Pro!" It's a rarity when he can't find time to critique and assist a current professional on tour, male or female. Dr. Bud always is in demand.

Although Dr. Bud makes regular excursions into the domain of youthful racquetball by playing the bright spots on tour, he is more at ease in tournament competition with Seniors (35 and older) and Masters (45 and older) competition. He is in his 46th year and was the oldest player ever to win a U.S. Open racquetball title at age 37. He prides himself in having never lost to a player older than he.

Ranked as one of the best doubles players of all time, he plays open and professional division doubles regularly and occasionally enters the open amateur singles tournaments in Southern California. He won, most recently, an open amateur tourney in San Diego.

"Racquet World", for these reasons, plus the following personal accomplishments in 1977, has named Dr. Bud Muehleisen "The Male Athlete of the Year."

Dr. Bud Muehleisen,

age 46, 1977 Racquetball Record

January — International Racquetball Association Invitational Masters Singles Tournament, Minneapolis, MN. — First Place

May — California State Senior Open Championship, Santa Ana, CA. — First Place, Singles — First Place, Doubles

May — International Racquetball Association Masters Singles Tournament, Southfield, Mich. — First Place

June — United States Racquetball Association Masters Singles Tournament, San Diego, CA. — First Place

July — National Outdoor Three-Wall Seniors Open Championship, Costa Mesa, CA. — First Place

July — Canadian National Championships, Seniors Open Singles and Doubles, Edmonton, Canada — First Place, Singles — First Place, Doubles

August — World Open Championships, Singles and Doubles Open Division, Spokane, WA. — First Place, Singles — First Place, Doubles

September — Los Angeles Open, Seniors Open Singles, Newport Beach, CA. — First Place

November — International Racquetball Association National Doubles Seniors Open, Los Alamitos, CA. — First Place

Tribute to Bud Muehleisen

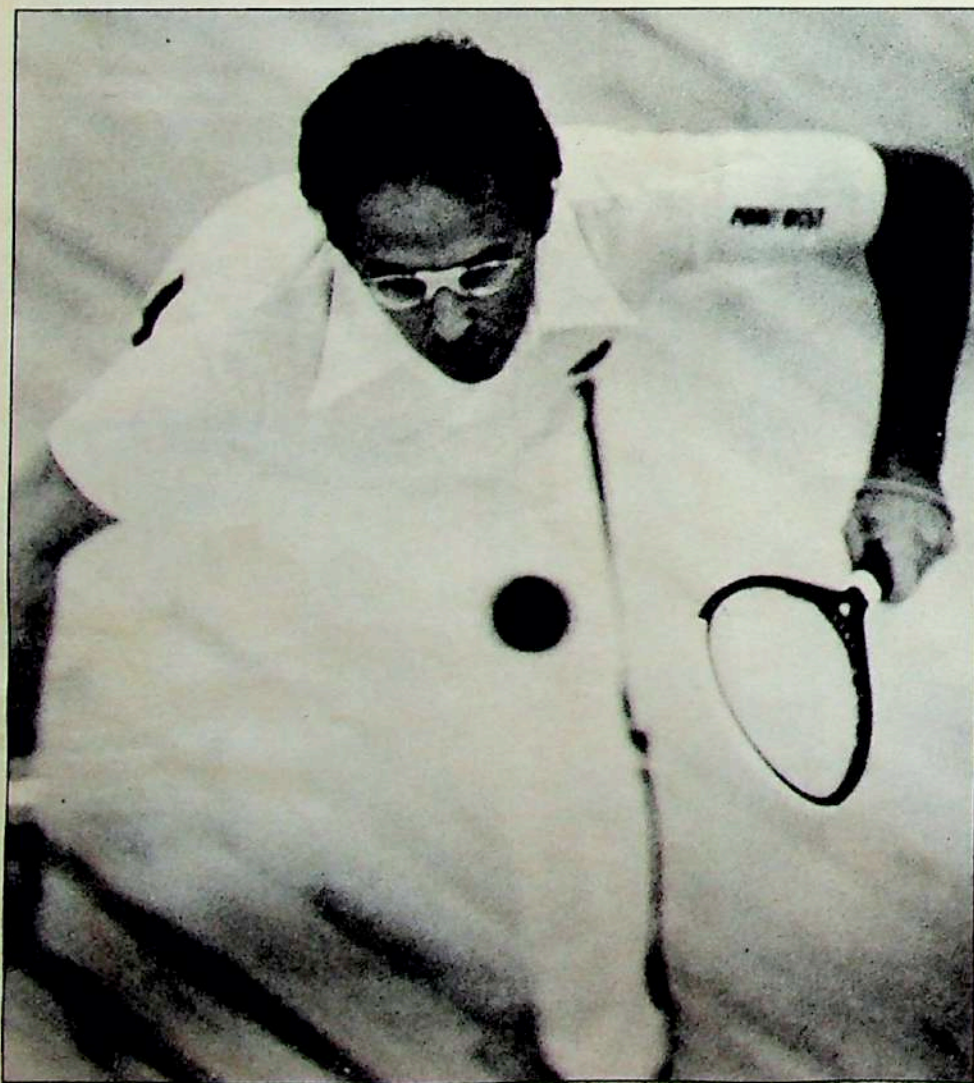


Photo by Dan Kasberger

Rebounds

Text continued from page 23

the balls are lighter, the target area is big," he says.

Does Lester think racquetball is a faster game than tennis?

"It sometimes appears that way. But it really depends on who is playing. A tennis game can be slow. A racquetball game, just about any match you play, is going to be very quick."

Does he like racquetball better than tennis?

"I like them both. I like any sport that's fast. I have to say I like tennis and racquetball about the same. I am really a racquetball buff right now, though."

As a tennis pro, Lester considers himself an amateur in racquetball and proudly speaks of winning an amateur tournament at the Supreme Court Sports Center, a C Division tournament. He's been teaching tennis for eight or more years and presently is a private instructor, teaching on private courts in the West San Fernando Valley section of Los Angeles.

The Supreme Court Sports Center at 7030 Havenhurst Avenue, is owned by actor (MASH) Wayne Rogers, and Lewis N. Wolff of Wolff-Sesnon Development Co. An investor in the project is movie star Peter Falk.

San Diego Outshoots Orange County/Los Angeles In All-Star Racquetball Competition

In the same spirit of a cross-town rival football game, the San Diego All-Stars challenged their



The winning team: Muehleisen's El Cajon (L-R) Wayne Weightman, Warren Takahashi, Nathan Mechel, Alan Kent, Larry Schmidtke, Randy Tripp, Dan Factor, George Tomaiko and Howie Soloman.

northern competition at Santana Courts February 5.

Each team brought twelve Men's "A" players, 16 "B"s, four Women's "A" players, and four "B"s to participate in both singles and doubles. This was the first year that women were invited to the All-Stars.

San Diego won the Men's "A" singles 11-1, Men's "A" doubles 5-1, Men's "B" singles 10-6, Men's "B" doubles 7-1, and Women's singles 6-2. The ladies tied 2-2 in doubles. The results are as follows:

Men's "A" Singles: 1. Steve Trent (SD) defeated Kirk Williams (LA) 2. Alan Kent (SD) defeated Dave Bush (LA) 3. Stan Wright (SD) def. Mike Alderson (LA) 4. Larry Meyers (SD) def. R.O. Carson (LA) 5. Bill Stevens (SD) def.

Roger Ehren (LA) 6. Jon Davidson (LA) def. Jim Doyle (SD) 7. Leo Gurnoe (SD) def. Toni Marti (LA) 8. Gary Lusk (SD) def. Bill Fearing (LA) 9. Wayne Weightman (SD) def. Howard Wendel (LA) 10. Mike Maddox (SD) def. Bob Donahue (LA) 11. Lou Kessing (SD) def. Phil Ivaldy (LA) 12. Daryl Weed (SD) def. Ian Fleischman (LA) by forfeit.

All-Star Doubles: Dr. Bud Muehleisen/Gary Lusk (SD) defeated Mark Morrow/Bruce Radford (LA).

Men's "A" Doubles: 1. Trent/Wright (SD) def. Starkman/Davidson (LA) 2. Meyers/Doyle (SD) def. Bush/Ehren (LA) 3. Williams/Fleischman (LA) def. Kent/Weed (SD) 4. Stevens/Gurnoe (SD) def. R.O. Carson/Alderson (LA) 5. Lusk/Weightman (SD) def. Fearing/Wendel (LA) 6. Maddox/Kessing (SD) def. Marti/Donahue (LA) by forfeit.

Women's "A" Singles: 1. Bette Weed (SD) defeated Diane Heims (LA) 2. Laura Martino (LA) def. Karen Seavello (SD) 3. Shirley Mitchell (SD) def. Ruth McGovern (LA) 4. Donna Noguchi (LA) def. Kathy Pool (SD) by forfeit.

Women's "A" Doubles: 1. Heims/Noguchi (LA) defeated Weed/Pool (SD) 2. McGovern/Martino (LA) def. Seavello/Mitchell (SD)

Men's "B" Singles: 1. Mike McGovern (LA) def. Randy Tripp (SD) 2. John Godwin (SD) def. Wally Rosvall (LA) 3. Pat Halbert (SD) def. Jim Rossman (LA) 4. Corky Ewing (SD) def. Chris Dordan (LA) 5. Steve Reschke (SD) def. Jim Manes (LA) 6. John Steinbacher (SD) def. Bob DeRobertes (LA) 7. Dan Factor (SD) def. Glenn Gross (LA) 8. Mark Hill (LA) def. Allen Weckerly (SD) 9. Jim Hicks (LA) def. Robbie Reschke (SD) 10. Karin Walton (LA) def. Bill Lynn (SD) 11. Gary Kelley (SD) def. Duane Caine (LA) 12. Matt Curry (LA) def. Clyde Shearer (SD) 13. Richard Benavides (SD) def. Gould (LA) by forfeit 14. Wayne

Trelogen (LA) def. Lewis Lipton (SD) 15. Wayne Ferrare (SD) def. Manny Velaquez (LA) by forfeit 16. Joe Goodman (SD) def. Brad Johnson (LA)

Men's "B" Doubles: 1. Chadwick/McGovern (LA) def. Reschke/Reschke (SD) 2. Godwin/Ewing (SD) def. Rosvall/Lieber (LA) 3. Lynn/Lipton (SD) def. Hill/Hicks (LA) 4. Tripp/Shearer (SD) def. Trelogen/Velasquez (LA) 5. Halbert/Factor (SD) def. Darden/DeRobertis (LA) 6. Kelley/Ferrare (SD) def. Gould/Finklestein (LA) 7. Steinbacher/Weckerly (SD) def. Buhre/Buckles (LA) 8. Benavides/Goodman (SD) def. Hower/Kutzmarski (LA)

Women's "B" Singles: 1. Peggy Gardner (SD) won. 2. Florence Carey (SD) won. 3. Sandy McLaughlin (SD) won. 4. Chris Goodman (SD) won.

Women's "B" Doubles: 1. Carey/Gardner (SD) won. 2. Goodman/Charfauros (SD) won.

Pro Baseball Players Practice Their Swings In All-Pro Racquetball

Al Oliver and Don Kessinger were the co-winners in a racquetball event for baseball players held as part of an All-Pro Racquetball tournament.

Oliver, former Pittsburgh star, recently traded to Texas, defeated Craig Swan, Met pitcher, 21-11 and 21-12, and Kessinger, the former Chicago great, whipped Tim Foli, San Francisco, 21-14, 21-9.

The winners each received \$4,000 and qualify for the All-Pro Racquetball finals against winners from similar qualifying tournaments for football, hockey, golf, and basketball athletes. The champion will earn \$50,000 from an expected purse of \$150,000.

Text continued on page 32



Gary Lusk has Bruce Radford pinned on the wall in the All-Star Doubles at Santana Courts.

Rebounds

Text continued from page 31

More than 30 baseball stars participated in the double-elimination event held in Las Vegas Jan. 30-31, Feb. 1. In the championship round of eight, Oliver downed Bobby Valentine (Mets) 21-9, 21-15; Swan whipped Richard Dauer (A's), 21-11, 21-12; Kessinger beat Gary Carter (Expos), 21-6, 21-4; and Foli trimmed John Stearns (Mets), 21-14, 21-9.

Oliver believes that he has the edge in the finals, which are scheduled for late in the fall.

"Of all the pro sports, baseball players have the greatest edge when it comes to racquetball because the sport requires good eye-hand coordination," he said. "The sport also demands absolute concentration, the type of concentration required of a good hitter."

Kessinger is familiar with the sport since he owns two courts.

"If my owning two courts gives me an advantage, then Walter O'Malley has an advantage when it comes to hitting home runs because he owns the Dodgers," he said. "The neat thing about this tournament is that we can go on and compete against pros from other sports."

Valentine, a quarter finalist, credits racquetball with his rehabilitation from a broken leg.

"Racquetball has been my entire rehabilitation program," he said. "There were those who said I would never be able to play baseball again."

The tournament, conceived by All-Pro Sports, Ltd. of San Diego, CA, has as its sponsors, Leach Industries, the nation's largest manufacturer of racquetball racquets, and Seamco Sporting Goods.

Racquetball Highlight With CBS' Celebrity Challenge Of The Sexes

Top stars from both television and racquetball made Sunday, January 22 an exciting and memorable time at King's Racquetball Court in Westminster, California. As racquetball fans jammed the 450+ seats of the 3-glass walled "Royal Court," they were treated first to a top exhibition game between Davey Bledsoe and Jerry Hileicher. Later, with television cameras rolling for CBS' Celebrity Challenge of the Sexes, Adrienne Barbeau (co-star of CBS' "Maude" series) and Danny Most (co-star of ABC's "Happy Days") met in the highlight game of the evening.

Both television celebrities



(L to R) Actor Danny Most ("Happy Days") and actress Adrienne Barbeau ("Maude"). Photo by Robert Henderson Design

were well coached. Ms. Barbeau received sideline encouragement from actress Barbara Rhodes, and Danny Most had the wit and wisdom of Actor McLean Stevenson.

The celebrities provided some really entertaining moments for everyone, including one in which McLean Stevenson learned the hard way about body protection. Adrienne Barbeau and Danny Most played an exciting and very surprising challenge game, with Danny at the top of the final 21-14 score.

Big Money And Prizes In San Diego Open Tourney

George Brown's newest facility hosted the 1978 San Diego Open January 26, 27, 28 and 29. The club, located at 7620 Balboa Avenue in San Diego, has 20 courts. Prizes totaling \$600 were raffled off to participants. Jack in the Box donated meal tickets to all entrants.

Steve Trent, the number four seed, was the upset winner in the semis of the Men's Open Singles against number one seed, Jeff Bowman. Trent went on to take first place and \$300 away from Alan Kent in the finals. Kent was awarded \$150 for second. Bowman was again defeated in the play-offs for third place, this time by Steve Mondry, who took home \$100.

In a tough draw of 42 "B" players, John Godwin topped Bill Kaplan in the finals 21-10, 19-21, 11-8 to win the \$100 top prize. Kaplan won \$50 for second, followed by Bob Holland (\$25) in third.

Two well known names took top honors in Men's "C" singles — Weckerly and Trent. Daren Weckerly, Allen's son, squeaked it out in two against Steve Trent's brother, Mike 21-20, 21-19.

Men's Novice was a hard fought

division with 78 entries. Shaun Foley made it through numerous rounds to win first place against Ivan Meier in the finals 21-20, 21-11.

James Hall walked away with the \$30 prize money and first place in Men's Beginning Novice. Hall defeated David Fichman in the finals 21-6, 21-1.

Women's Opens went undecided when finalists Bette Weed and Shirley Mitchell refused to play the match in protest of the prorated prize money. Entry fee for the event was \$25. First place, because the draw was only 41% of the total required, would have won \$30.75. Second place was \$14.35. "That's not even worth playing for," commented Mitchell bitterly.

Carolyn Lefford won \$17 for first place in Women's "C"s. She

defeated Chris McGirr in the finals. McGirr took home \$8.50 for second, followed by Belinda Alcantara (\$5.10) in third.

Women's Novice fared better financially than Women's "C"s due to their bigger draw. Donna Miller (\$26.25) crushed Johanna Meyers (\$15) in the finals. Linda Seymour took third and \$7.50.

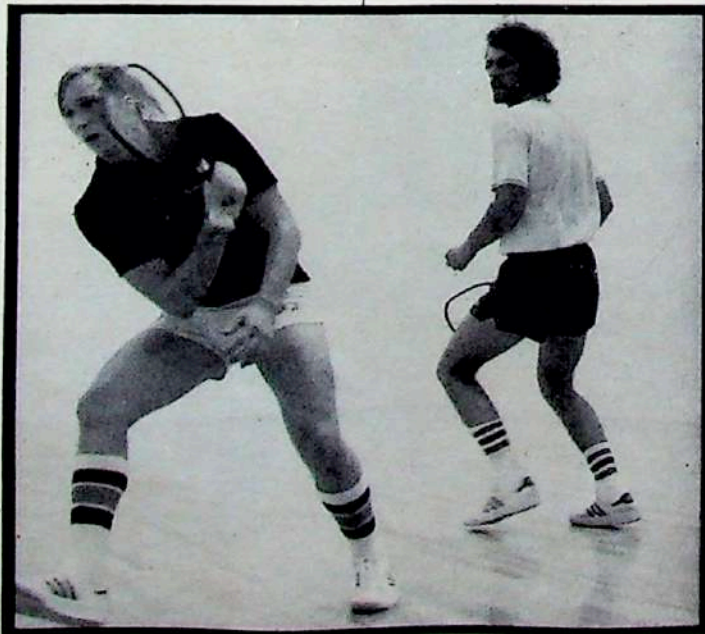
In Men's "C" Doubles, Jeff Fitzgerald and Bill Paxton teamed up for a winner against David Caballero/David Sabbas in the finals 21-4, 21-11.

The Reschke brothers, Steve and Robbie, won the "B" Doubles and \$37.50 against Howie Soloman/Rick Schackel in the finals. Second place took home \$20. \$12.50 was awarded to the third place team.

After a long hard battle, Steve Trent and Stan Wright defeated Keith Luhnaw and Alan Kent in the finals of Open Doubles. After playing in the finals of singles, Trent and Kent appeared on the court again for the finals of the doubles. Trent came off victorious in both matches.

Mixed Doubles was won by the late entrants, Leo Gurnoe and his partner, Peggy Gardner. Gurnoe/Gardner defeated the number one seeded team, Wayne Weightman and Carole Charfauros, 21-15, 21-16 to split \$25. Third place was won by forfeit as a result of boyfriend/girlfriend argument between Mike Maddox and Chris McGirr. Jimmy Harper and Terry Weaver split the \$5 prize money for third place.

Steve Lerner defeated John Chu in Juniors. Roger Ehren beat Allen Weckerly in Seniors. The Masters was won by Vance Lerner. Lou Moreno took second. ●



Larry Meyers of Oceanside, lost to Alan Kent (R) of El Cajon in the playoffs for the San Diego "A & B" league held at the Escondido Athletic Club.

Photo by Carole Charfauros

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Mixed Up About Mixed Doubles?

By Steve Strandemo
with Carole Charfauros

While watching some of the mixed doubles matches at a recent amateur tournament, I was really impressed with the ability of the gals to hang in with the guys. In order to be good at mixed doubles a gal has to be able to hit the ball down-the-line with velocity. If you're not ready to blast the ball, gals, you'd be better off staying home.

The reason for this is that most of the men in Open Mixed Doubles are "A" players. Even an open woman player is not used to the velocity of the guy's shots. Mixed doubles can easily become a dangerous situation unless all four players know what they are doing.

Mixed doubles is basically a social game. The sole purpose is to have a good time. Winning is a nice luxury but should not be a "must" if everyone is to enjoy the game. By knowing the basic strategy and positioning, mixed doubles can be a

fun, safe game instead of resulting in chaos or injury.

Before the team even steps on the court, the more experienced player should take charge of the situation. He should decide on a game strategy, team shot selection and be the one to call the time-outs.

The best formation for mixed doubles is side by side, generally with the guys on the left and the gals on the right. The up and back or "I Formation" is easily beaten by a team that understands the value of hitting down-the-line. This forces the I formation to both sides of the court and thus out of position to cover their opponent's shots.

By playing side by side, the players are in better position to watch the ball from center court. The know their responsibilities on their half of the court. The gal will basically hit down-the-line

Photo by Todd Anthony

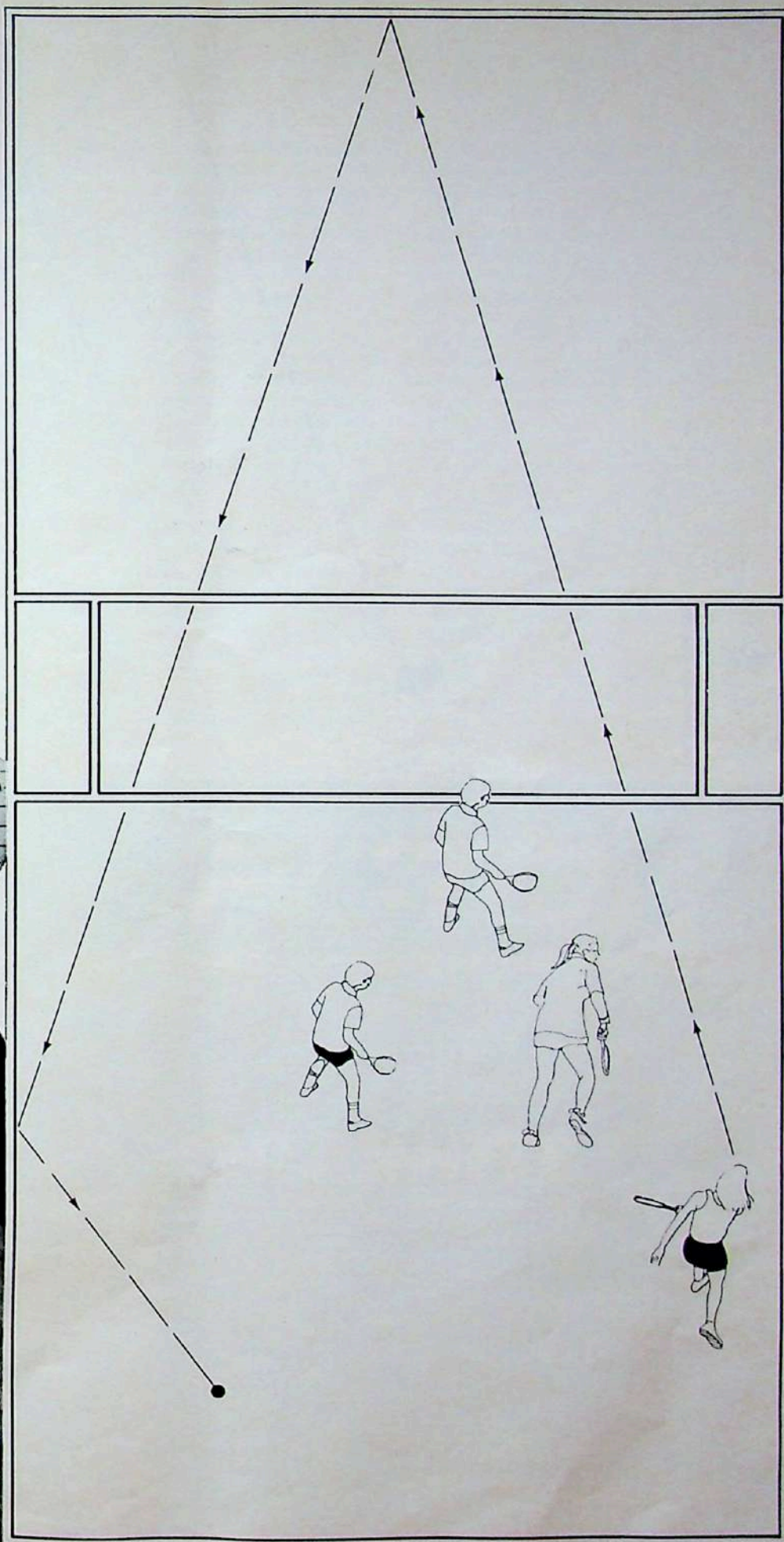


shots to the other gal. If the guy is hanging back she should also pinch the ball in the front right corner. If the guy is hogging center court she should cross court the ball to move him back to his side of the court.

Some guys may try to "poach," to play the whole court, forcing his partner to stand in the deep right corner. She will cause a hinder or even be hit by the ball if her partner decides to cross court. She will also become angry because she's pretty much out of the game. When her partner finally decides that it's her turn to hit the ball she will not be prepared to do so.

Text continued on page 38

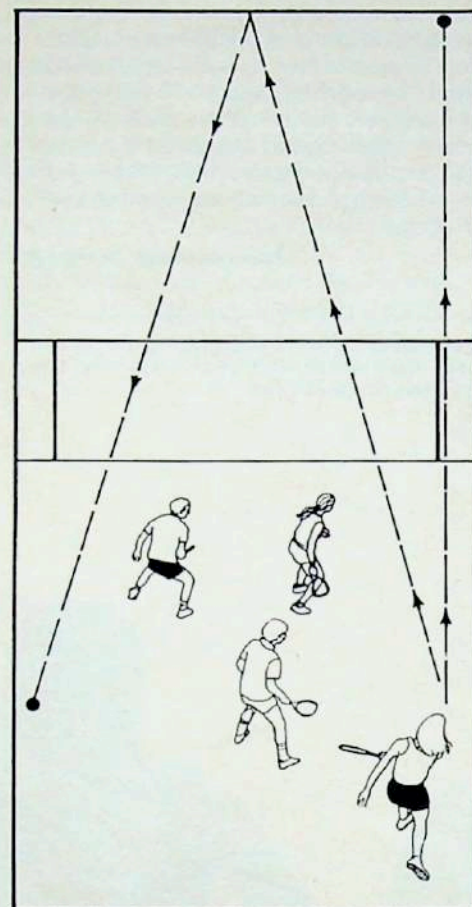
(Illustration 1) If the guy is trying the "poach" keep him on his half of the court by cross courting to the left side.



(Illustration 1)

Mixed Up About Mixed Doubles?

Text continued from page 37



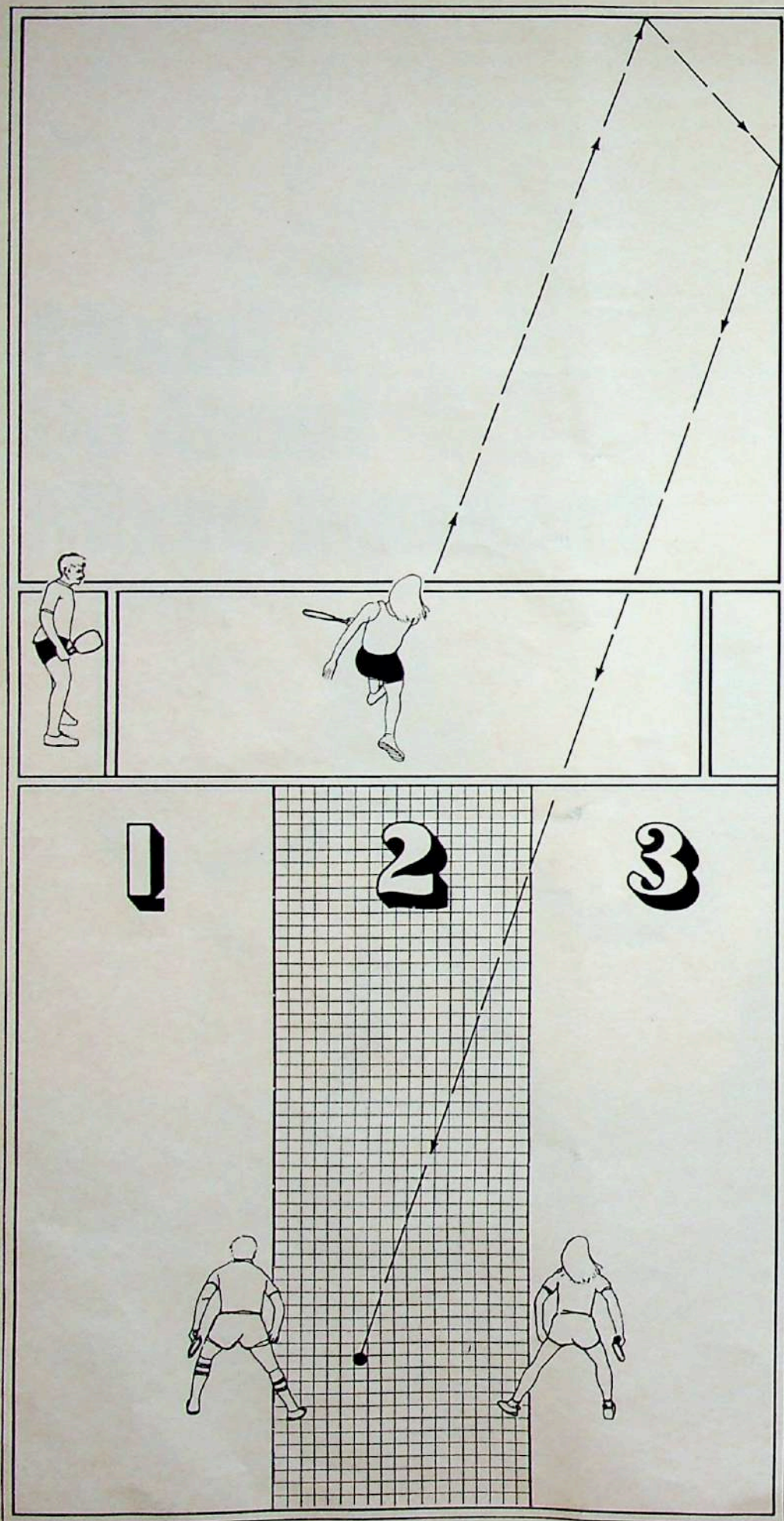
(Illustration 3)

The gal on the other team may picture this guy as a looming monster, much bigger than life size, who is ready to gobble up anything on his 90% "half" of the court. If she tries to hit down-the-line to his partner, her shot had better be very accurate, because he will hog anything that hits the side wall at all. As powerful as this position seems, he is very vulnerable to a cross court pass. If the gal realizes this, she can burn him several times before he finally gets back to his side of the court. (see *illustration No. 1*)

IF THE GUY HAS TO HOG THE COURT AND TAKE ALL THE SHOTS TO GO FOR THE VICTORY, THEN I SUGGEST HE BE ENTERED IN OPEN DOUBLES BY HIMSELF (THAT MIGHT BRING HIS HUMILITY BACK A LITTLE).

(Illustration 2) Here the server is trying to force the lefty to return the serve with his backhand. To me, any serve in zone 2 should constitute a fault.

(Illustration 3) Good defensive position for mixed doubles is in center court. The players should not be hit by a down the line or cross court shot.



(Illustration 2)

The generally accepted rule in mixed doubles is that the guys must serve to the guys and the gals must serve to the gals. Failure to do so results in a fault.

This brings up a problem with serves down the middle. In men's doubles, this serve is generally used against a left-righty team because both of their backhands are in center court. Because the server is in the center, this usually forces the return to be defensive.

In mixed doubles this might become a dangerous situation. If I was going to dictate the rules of mixed doubles, the players would be forced to serve to the corners. Any serves in the middle of the court, where the receiver would have to think defensively, would result in a fault serve. (see illustration No. 2)

The reason for this rule is to start the rally in an organized fashion. If the rally begins in a mess it will usually end that way. With the guy serving to the guy's corner, the gal on the receiving team knows it is safe to move up into center court. The gal on the serving team will also move into center court to leave her right alley open for a cross court and also to be in the best defensive position.

Many gals may feel intimidated by center court because they are afraid of getting hit, but actually it is the safest place to be. The person returning the ball should hit a down-the-line, a cross court or a pinch to the closest corner. The three players in center court will usually not be in any danger. (see illustration No. 3)

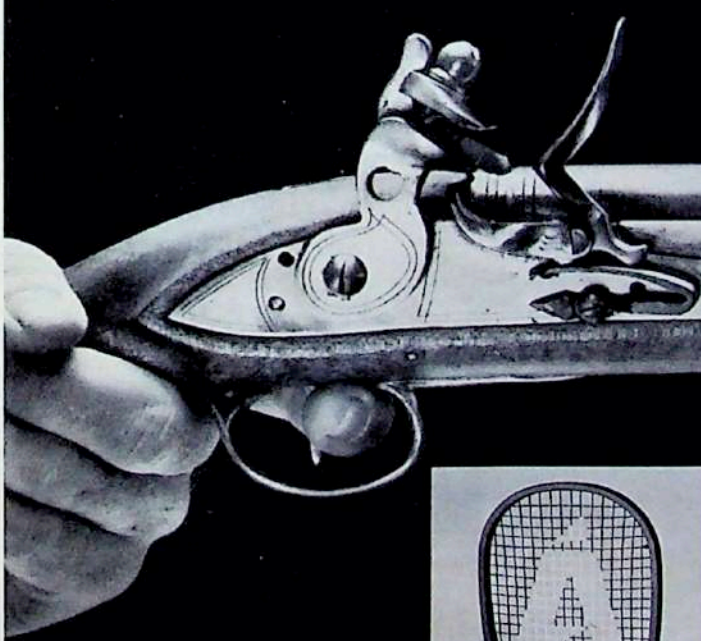
The only time the players will have to move out of center court is when the ball is mis-hit so that it travels into center court. To avoid hinders or being hit by the ball the players will have to reposition themselves on either wall. This resembles the fault serve and also explains why a serve in the center should be outlawed.

If a player hits a pass or a serve that comes off the side wall a little, that player is forced to move out of the receiver's angle. The receiver is entitled to hit down-the-line or cross court. If the opponent is standing in that angle he or she will probably get blasted with the ball. A good ref will point out that this is actually an avoidable hinder and will result in points being awarded to the offensive team.

The rest of the rally will be normal doubles play. It makes sense to work the weaker player, so, gals, if your partner is a men's "A" player, be ready for your opponent to rip the ball cross court to you. Otherwise you are just playing against the gal on the right side.

Generally speaking, the guy on the left will usually cover the left side, plus any balls down the middle with his forehand, so all the gal has to do is be responsible for the right side. Be ready for the cross court pass, the down the line kill, and be able to go back for a ceiling ball if it's hit to your back corner. If you depend on your partner too much he will become the poacher and you will no longer be playing as a team.

Teamwork should be the name of the game in mixed doubles. Even though your team may look weaker as far as singles abilities, you may be able to beat a "better" couple because of your teamwork. But remember: winning is not the only objective when playing mixed doubles. The important thing is to have a safe, enjoyable game and be ready for some superb action and thrilling rallies.



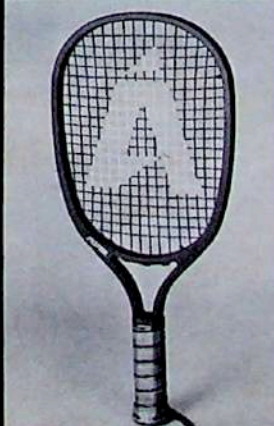
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RACQUET WORLD/37

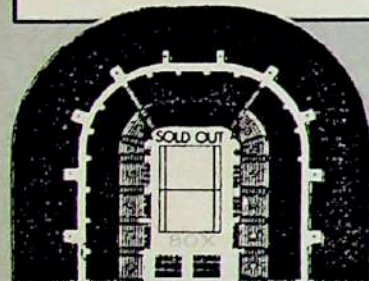
FRIARS' 1978 HOME SCHEDULE

Friday, April 21	Los Angeles Strings	(Nastase, Evert)
Thursday, April 27	Boston Lobsters	(Navratilova, Emerson)
Saturday, April 29	Seattle Cascades	(Gorman, Stove)
Thursday, May 4	Golden Gaters	(Mayer, Wade)
Saturday, May 6	Anaheim Oranges	(Casals, Drysdale)
Thursday, May 11	Los Angeles Strings	(Nastase, Evert)
Saturday, May 13	Phoenix Racquets	(Barker, Walts)
Wednesday, May 31	Phoenix Racquets	(Barker, Walts)
Friday, June 2	New York Apples	(King, Gerulaitis)
Thursday, June 8	Seattle Cascades	(Gorman, Stove)
Saturday, June 10	Golden Gaters	(Mayer, Wade)
Wednesday, June 14	Sunbelt Nets	(Richards, Turnbull)

WIMBLEDON BREAK

Wednesday, July 19	Phoenix Racquets	(Barker, Walts)
Thursday, July 27	Seattle Cascades	(Gorman, Stove)
Saturday, July 29	Golden Gaters	(Mayer, Wade)
Thursday, August 3	Anaheim Oranges	(Casals, Drysdale)
Saturday, August 5	New York Apples	(King, Gerulaitis)
Thursday, August 10	Indiana Loves	(Fromholtz, Stone)
Saturday, August 12	Los Angeles Strings	(Nastase, Evert)

* All matches are played at the San Diego Sports Arena at 7:30 P.M.



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38/RACQUET WORLD

PLAYING YOUR BEST

CONCENTRATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS



How do you determine what good concentration is? If you ask different people this question, it is likely that you'll get just as many different responses. And about 10 years ago I could not have given you a very good definition either. Now, I've had the opportunity to test out some very interesting theories and concepts. Let me tell you what I've found.

The word concentration means different things to all people. Some think of it as "trying harder" or "bearing down". Some think of it as "blocking out". These phrases tell you what to do but they don't tell you how to do it. These preceptions of concentration can be very hazardous as well. When you try to bear down, chances are that you will use more effort, due to the tension in your muscular systems. You will soon lose fine motor control and become fatigued, attempting to "bear down". If you try to block out annoyances, you can drive yourself crazy. If you are attempting to block out the noise of your opponent or someone in the background, it is likely you'll end up hearing only that sound. While it may seem strange, when you are concentrating, it happens all by itself and you are not aware of it. It is not something that you can summon up without specialized techniques.

To find out what these techniques are, I talked to Dr. Bill Harrison of the Vision Center for Sports in Davis, California. I met Bill after one of my track meets in which I had performed poorly. "Poor concentration", I thought. I was aware of the things Bill had been doing with the Kansas City Royals and knew that he was having a great deal of success. I asked for his help.

Bill told me of a process called "centering". This was a physical process of tuning in the proper sensory channel to get the most out of your performance. Because it is a physical technique in nature, anyone can do it. Even me. Bill asked me if I noticed anything special about a good performance and a mediocre or poor performance. Thinking back I seemed to remember my best performances came when I wasn't thinking or concentrating at all. They came when I felt good. They seemed effortless.

Bill went on to explain something about our sensory systems of the body. He's labeled them vision, hearing, touch,

body awareness, visualization (thinking), balance, coordination and energy. Most of these are self explanatory, but some of these need a little more defining. Body awareness, known as "kinesthesia", is knowing the position of the body internally. Visualization or "thinking", is seeing what you want to do in your mind's eye. Energy is the basic unit of work or force that comes from within our systems.

Think of these systems as a channel selector with each system on the dial. Your consciousness will allow you to dial in only one channel at a time. So, if you are attempting to "bear down" or to concentrate, you end up by spinning the channel selector and not making any sense of any of the systems. It is no wonder people perform poorly when they attempt to concentrate.

The way to make these systems work for you is to control the selector. So which is the best or most useful system to keep tuned in on? Athletes for years have been told to "follow their eyes" and "The eyes will control the rest of the body." Bill Harrison felt that this too was the way to success, "Stay in the visual system".

When you begin to hit the racquetball or tennis ball, think of centering your sight on the ball only. Then on only half the ball. And finally, on only the top of the ball. This visual "centering" allows you to do many things successfully. First, this type of centering anchors your balance, improves rhythm and timing. The more directed you are to the ball, the better the rest of the functions of your body will be.

Practicing shots in racquetball or tennis is helpful; it allows you to improve your skill. When you are doing this, (keeping the arm bent, knee bent or whatever) you are in the body awareness system. This is fine for practice, but

when you begin to play, let the visual system take over. If you attempt to bring the arm around bent, while looking at the ball, you're back into two systems and you'll likely screw-up the shot. When you practice a shot there is a technique that is going to be most beneficial. I used it in college and it helped make me an All-American. It is called playback.

If you hit 10 bad shots and then hit a super one, don't bounce the ball and go on hitting. If you do, you've wasted all of your last 11 shots. Replay the shot in your mind. Commit it to your memory. Visualize what happened and store it.

The reasons I brought up these techniques about how to play in the visual system or "centering" if you will, is to allow you to get the most out of your favorite racquet sport. This technique of centering gives you a tremendous arsenal against the psychout artists of the sports world. The centering process will help you through low emotional times and maybe most importantly, it will help you keep centering on the ball when you are beginning to choke. It will allow you to stay in the visual system and not jump back and forth into the other systems.

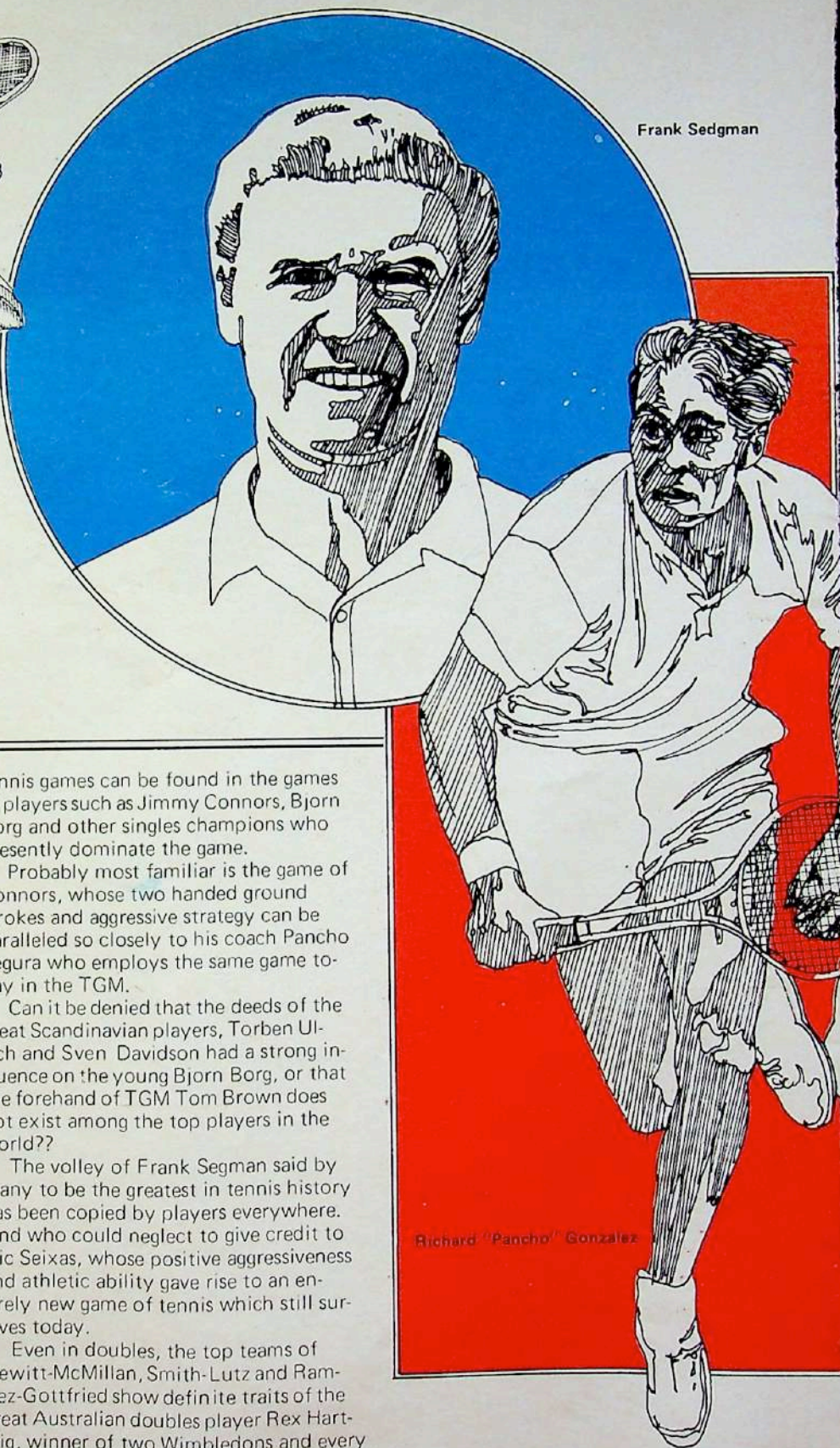
KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER:

1. When practicing, become aware of where the different limbs of the body are. When you make a good shot, commit it to memory. It only takes a few seconds. Visualize what you did and play it back in your head.
2. When playing, stay in the visual system. If you hit a rotten shot, don't analyze it. Just keep watching the ball. Your body knows what to do, let it do it. If you begin to attempt to change your shot or technique you might as well forget it.
3. Above all, this type of play gives you a consistency. It allows you to play the game and simply have more fun. ○

Thomas V. Pipes is an exercise physiologist who specializes in sports medicine and preventative medicine. He worked on his Ph.D. at the University of Southern California and has worked with professional athletes, business executives and families for the past six years. He is the author of "The Pipes' Fitness Prescription". The concepts presented here are excerpted from his second book, "The Ultimate Sport", which is to be published next fall.



Rex Noel Hartwig



Frank Sedgman

Richard "Pancho" Gonzalez

The dictionary defines old age as meaning: The advanced years of human life when strength and vigor decline.

Perhaps true at one time, it is no longer so. At a time in life when the youth of the world dominate the news, one group holds on, standing in contrast to their surroundings. Not the Gray Panthers nor the Senior Citizens, but the Tennis Grand Masters, a handful of men with an average age of half a century. Men akin to warriors of battle wielding their weapons with strength and accuracy enough to defy any dictionary meaning of age.

Recapturing that almost forgotten feeling, that aura of pride and achievement which existed before media, quick money and prime time, the Masters, under the organization of Alvin Bunis (and the backing of Almaden Wines) has developed into a tour consisting of 20 stops throughout the United States and the world.

In an age where one's roots are taking special priorities, the TGM are flourishing. Alex Haley brought the plight of the Black Man to the public through *his* roots and Alvin Bunis has re-established tennis' roots through the Grand Masters.

Taking a closer look at these Grand Masters, we find that many of their own

tennis games can be found in the games of players such as Jimmy Connors, Bjorn Borg and other singles champions who presently dominate the game.

Probably most familiar is the game of Connors, whose two handed ground strokes and aggressive strategy can be paralleled so closely to his coach Pancho Segura who employs the same game today in the TGM.

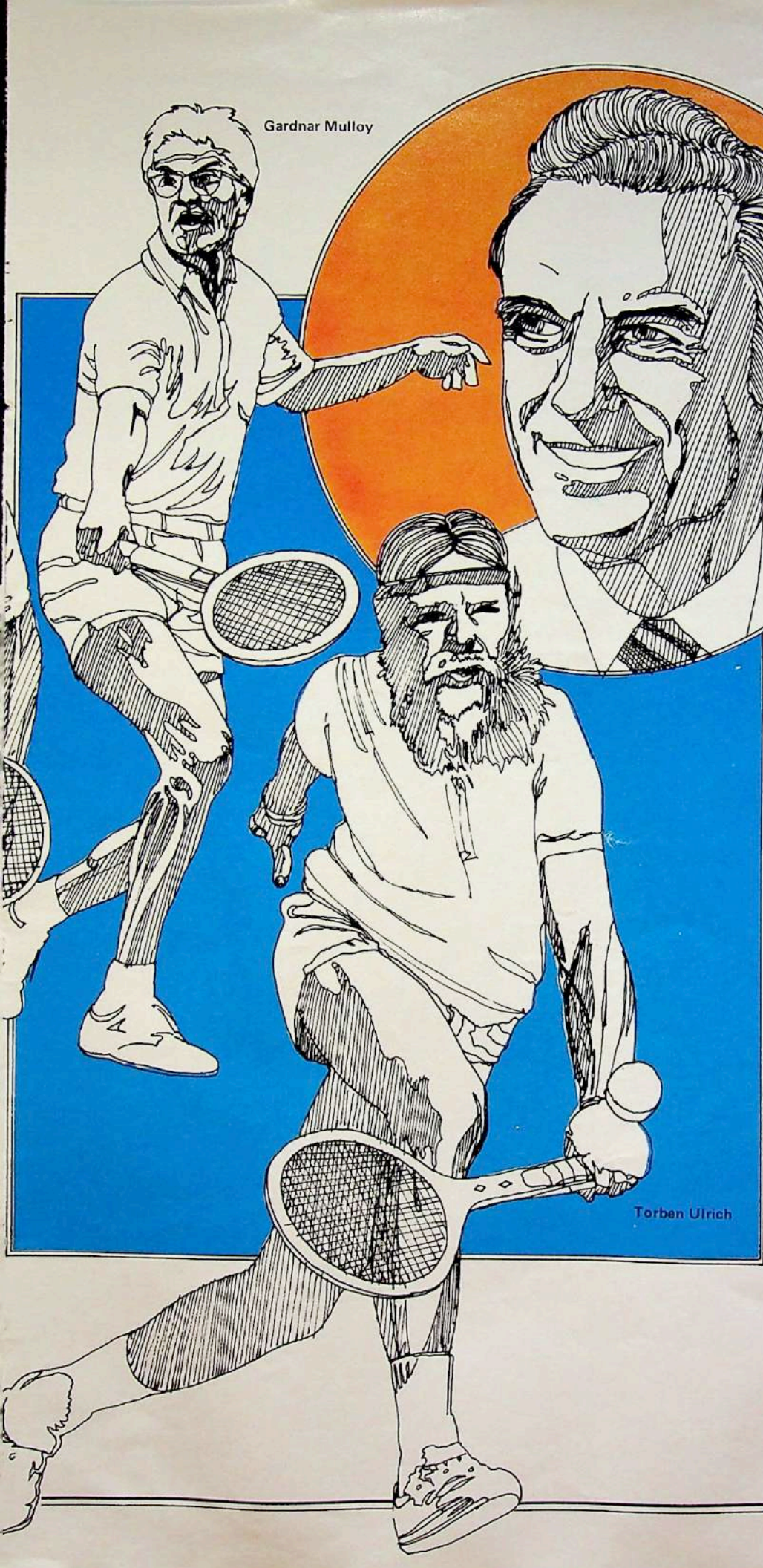
Can it be denied that the deeds of the great Scandinavian players, Torben Ulrich and Sven Davidson had a strong influence on the young Bjorn Borg, or that the forehand of TGM Tom Brown does not exist among the top players in the world??

The volley of Frank Segman said by many to be the greatest in tennis history has been copied by players everywhere. And who could neglect to give credit to Vic Seixas, whose positive aggressiveness and athletic ability gave rise to an entirely new game of tennis which still survives today.

Even in doubles, the top teams of Hewitt-McMillan, Smith-Lutz and Ramirez-Gottfried show definite traits of the great Australian doubles player Rex Hartwig, winner of two Wimbledons and every major doubles championship in the world.

Aging Profiles

By Joseph Ditler



Gardnar Mulloy

Victor Seixas, Jr.

Illustration by Ron Height

Surely Almaden must have known that like wine, tennis players grow better with age and the Grand Master

But time, the ever-present factor, continues on, and even the seemingly ageless warriors of the Tennis Grand Masters will one day be put to pasture. It is possible that Alvin Bunis will cook up a new division for 60 and over, but that remains to be seen. One predictable event in the near future however, will be the resurrection of players such as Kenny Rosewall, Roy Emerson and Rod Laver. These men and others are steadily reaching the requirements of the Tennis Grand Masters, to be 45 or over and have won a national or international event.

Could the likes of Gonzalez, Sedgman and the others possibly have known that when they first played as juniors that they would chase each other through the years, through time, to the Tennis Grand Masters that we see today? They still play tennis and it's still their profession.

But what about tomorrow? Maybe the tour will develop a 70's group, maybe an 80's group. And maybe they will find another group in that great heavenly stadium in the sky where cloud courts prevail, and bad calls go unquestioned.

But whatever the age, where ever the court, you can be assured that the men who play the Masters will still be putting on the best show in town with the style, grace and strategy that makes them what they are. And remember, "Old tennis players never die, they just keep the ball in play" ○

Baselines

Text continued from page 15

into tennis improvements at Morley Field or even for the proposed Junior Tennis Center only a hundred yards from the Maureen Connolly Stadium.

If precedent is set, this may allow yet another avenue to make Morley Field one of the finest tennis centers anywhere. That is pay tennis. I realize that is not one of the more popular positions to take, but I feel it would accomplish a great deal. If even a sum as little as twenty-five cents a person, per hour was charged and placed into this same trust fund, it could then be spent on the needed or suggested improvements. To satisfy the obvious question, "What about the juniors?", I would suggest the lower courts be set aside for them at no charge.

San Diego is one of the lone remaining bastions that has a no charge policy on its major public facilities. Few other communities have either the tennis activity or the number of players that we do. This results in a need for more courts and a higher upkeep for the existing ones, as they re-

ceive more play. The revenue that could be produced from this flow of quarters, plus the rental of the stadium would be more than enough to maintain the courts in the manner we would like and even construct an occasional new court. If the courts do not need repair, then the money collected could go toward the long hoped for Junior Tennis Center.

If we are compelled to wait for the city to do these things, we are all going to be a lot older. The city actually does a phenomenal job under the circumstances, but there are five dollars of demands for every dollar that actually gets spent. Even the matching funds projects are time consuming, although many improvements have been made that way. But if tennis at Morley Field could become self sustaining, it could be a formula for other such projects. Tennis would continue to flourish and we could all put something back into the game that has given us all so much pleasure.

Certain cities across the nation are showing declining numbers in their tennis ranks. Much of the problem stems from lack of adequate facilities or, in the case of many indoor clubs, courts are



Largest Crowd Ever To View A Tennis Match

David Mirisch Enterprises, nationally known tennis promotional firm, staged a recent tennis exhibition before the largest crowd ever to view a tennis match. It was at the Los Angeles Coliseum and was seen by over 75,000 spectators who were there for the Los Angeles Rams — Atlanta Falcons National League football game. Participating in the halftime ceremonies were: (Left to Right): Actor Lyle Waggoner, Barry McKay, Kelly Henry, Shelly Solomon, Jack Kramer and tennis coach Paul Cohen. Mirisch is in the back row and his partner Steve Simons is at the far right.

difficult to reserve, in addition to being expensive to rent. Morley Field has one of the best public stadiums anywhere in the nation. Its overall caliber of player is probably unequalled. The amount of talent nurtured from Morley is hard to believe. If the opportunity presents itself for us to help insure Morley Field's future, I feel we should consider it a privilege and not a punishment.

Director over Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina, he was named Assistant Director of their National Academy in 1976.

As the Island's resident professional, Arnette will direct the Seabrook hosted Almaden Tennis Grand Masters Tournament, featuring such legendary greats as Pancho Gonzales, Torben Ulrich and Vic Seixas, who bring to the Island what has been described as the best spectator tennis in the world.

Arnette's playing experience includes wins over Peter Van Lingen, of South Africa, former Davis Cup player, and USPTA sixth-ranked Robbie Smith.

Currently one of only three regional testers in the country for the USPTA, Arnette is active in administering the Association's examination to new applicants.

He has authored a weekly newspaper column on tennis tips as well as articles in USPTA publications. Presently he is writing two tennis manuals that will be published this year.

Arnette comes to Seabrook Island after having served as Head Pro and Manager of the Myrtle Beach Racquet Club, in addition to having been Touring Pro and Tennis Consultant for the Country Club of the Mountains Resort in Lake Lure, N.C.

As Seabrook Island's in-house professional, Arnette will provide the year round resident or vacationer a full offering of clinics, individual instruction, and tournament play, in addition to frequent visits from touring professionals.



Arnette, New Head Pro At Seabrook Island

Grigsby C. Arnette, the United States Professional Tennis Association's 1977 "South Carolina Professional of the Year", has been named Head Pro at Seabrook Island, a private resort community 23 miles outside of Charleston, S.C.

A fully certified member of the USPTA with professional ranking, Arnette is a tournament representative for Yonex, a national manufacturer of tennis equipment, and also serves in a consultant capacity on their advisory staff.

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The Case Of The Public Vs. John McEnroe

Text continued from page 27

though, when you've experienced a record-setting rush to fame. This instant reputation has made him a BMOC. Girls follow him everywhere and although he swears he has no immediate marriage plans, he's enjoying the notoriety that has come before him. "It's nicer being noticed than not at all, right? The only problem is you have to live with people back-slapping you and trying to get what they can from you when you're in the public eye."

Beating the likes of Sandy Mayer, Phil Dent, and Manuel Orantes have added to his brief — yet distinguished record. Dubbed by the press as "Little Nastase" doesn't seem to bother him as much as before, because once the lefty is out there whacking that ball, there is no doubt that he must be considered by all as a serious contender. He is fierce, fiery, aggressive — and emotional. "Yeah," he says, "I remember falling down one time and this bystander yelling out, 'Get an umbrella!' Did he really think I was crying? It's so absurd! Big deal. I fell. Isn't a person entitled to that?"

Such an irrepressible outbreak erupted when against Phil Dent during the quarter-finals at Wimbledon John threw his racquet, shouted at the linesmen, and fell full length on the grass holding his head in his hands. But for all his bad publicity and impetuous demeanor, tennis aficionados knew McEnroe was "in the zone." So perhaps the crowd can forgive him if he tugs at his socks, punches his racquet, and yanks at his hair.

Despite his incorrigibility, the message does seem loud and clear: Make way for the new Tatum O'Neal of the tennis set! He doesn't look as if he is about to disappear, so we'll have to put up with him. "People expect me to be perfect, but they forget I'm still a teenager. I feel for my age I'm a lot more mature than guys who haven't been anywhere. I mean, I am trying." If being an adolescent is, almost by definition, an alienated stage of life, a time of testing and proving one's worth in preparation for adulthood, one could say that John McEnroe is trying to prove to his tennis peers that he's not "just a kid."

Reaching the quarter-finals this fall at the Transamerica Tournament against Butch Walts isn't exactly kid stuff, and though John lost to the powerhouse server, when reporters filed in for the inevitable encounter, John leaned over and whispered to me, "Please tell them I'm not a bad guy. Remember to say that!"

Let this be for the record then John McEnroe really isn't the bad guy he's rumored to be.

There, John, I've told them. ○

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RACQUET WORLD/43

ON ANY GIVEN DAY

Top Amateurs Reveal
What It's Like
NOT To Be On Top

By Linda-Marie Singer

Photos by Linda-Marie Singer

Ever wonder what it's like to be ranked No. 126 in the tennis world? A virtual unknown? Think the struggle's worth it? 64 participants in Northern California's Avon Contest believed in their game and tried to inch their way closer to the top.

Names like Lindsey Beaven, Ann Kiyomura, and Lesley Hunt are familiar enough. But what about Chris O'Neil? Hear much about Aleida Spex? Susan Zaro? What about Chile's No. 1 women's player — what was her name again?

If you've been barraged by the more familiar personalities, don't worry. The Wade's and the King's surely won't disappear overnight. But "starlets" like Robin Harris of La Jolla, California, Nancy Yeargin of Greenville, South Carolina, and Renee Blount of St. Louis, Missouri know that unlike Hollywood, it's sheer ability on the court and not on the couch where they'll be regarded as awesome challengers by the famous stars.



Nancy Yeargin



Aleida Spex

Defecting from her native Cuba where she was ranked No. 1, to Miami Beach where she now resides, Aleida Spex worries and wonders when she'll see her parents again. One of the bubbliest young women, her "Happy to be alive" attitude permeates the life on the circuit.

Questioning the validity of playing tennis all year round if her ranking doesn't improve, Spex is keeping her mind open to an unforeseen shift in her career. "But for now," she says, "I've been thinking that this year especially I will have some good wins, because I like everybody and I feel truly happy!"



Susan Zaro

"Tournament experience and a good mental edge are two areas you have to have!" proclaims Californian Susan Zaro. In between spoonfuls of yoghurt and sips of Fresca, Sue and friend, Nancy Yeargin reflect on the psychological aspects of the game.

"A silly and defeating attitude to take is the one where you say, 'The sun won't rise tomorrow if I lose a match.'" The tall, blonde, blue-eyed South Carolinian

thinks it would be nice to earn a living at something she enjoys. "Just one good win would make me confidence-wise," she adds.

"Starting to beat people you've lost to before would clear up any mental stumbling blocks for me," says Sue. "There's really just a fine line between the Slims people and us. With them it's 99% mental, but with me, if I could gear myself mentally, on any day I could beat Billie Jean King."

While both starlets lost in the first round, they remain cheerful and optimistic. Sue is studying with Ken Walts and would love to master Butch's famous powerhouse serve. Nancy, who possesses that Cover Girl appearance, was All-American in college; indeed, the Southern belle is deep into perfecting her game, and sees the Avon circuit as a form of graduate school. "My parents and I feel it's an investment and I'm really learning. It's *some* education, let me tell you!"



Robin Harris

Diminutive Robin Harris isn't happy. Although squelching Stephanie Tolleson and moving into her second round at the Northern California Futures, Harris needs to eliminate her homesickness blues that often impair her concentration. *Almost* a celebrity, some people at Hilton Head confused her with Tracy Austin because of her stature and girlish looks, but all that aside, the Californian knows she will have to make some dramatic strides to earn the youngster's reputation.

"What bugs me is to know that if I were from Indiana or some small town instead of California, I'd probably be ranked No. 1 forever." Yet Harris feels there are no give-away matches regardless of where you're from. "Tennis today is so tough. You play all year long and you must keep up mentally. On any given day if a girl is mentally up, she can beat Chris Evert. But psychologically it's so hard to get there and stay there."



Silvana Urroz

"Age 12 marked the year for me. I *knew* I had to play tennis," declares Chile's top female, Silvana Urroz. "I also knew I had to come to the States to avoid becoming a weekend player." Straight out of a fairy tale, the Chilean beauty received a tennis scholarship to Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, and took advantage of the opportunity to become an all-year player by turning pro.

"Let's put it this way. I'm not getting rich, but I'm breaking even. Being sponsored by Coca Cola pays my airfare to Chile to see my family."

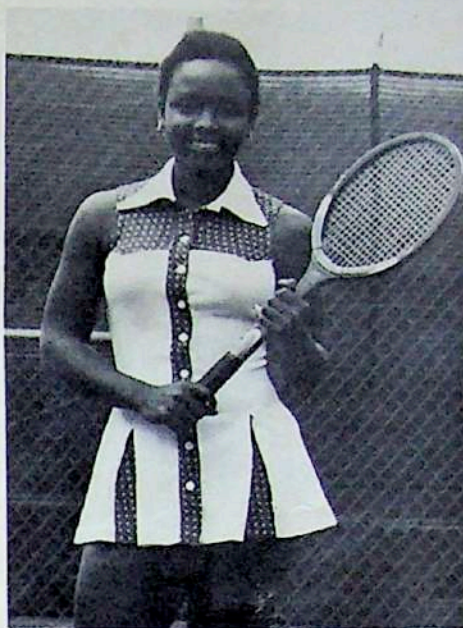


Chris O'Neil

Trying hard to create a reputation and following among the Aussies, is Chris O'Neil, a Stove look-alike. Standing 6' tall, the lanky Australian is disappointed at her lack of recognition and sponsorship in her own country.

Having struggled through hardships and survived loneliness, O'Neil maintains a terrific sense of humor, and cuts an almost comical figure on the court. Socks drooping, shorts sliding off, and hair wringing wet, the challenger smiles

to herself at the mere mention of the magic name "Chris." Although quite a bit "down under" the celebrated name-sake, O'Neil has carved a life for herself as a dedicated, up and coming tennis player.



Renee Blount

Talking with St. Louis, Missouri's No. 1 player of the past ten years, Renee Blount is learning to have a fighting drive like the more experienced performers. Encouraged by her mentor, Arthur Ashe, Blount admits that her parents were eager for her "to play a sport and still be a lady," so the youngster switched from professional diving to tennis.

Smarting from prejudicial remarks she heard as a junior while touring in the South, the articulate mid-Westerner declares: "You feel uncomfortable sometimes. People have a way. They do little things. Or maybe it's the way they look at you. It gets to you eventually, and you find they don't approve of your color. Tennis is still a white man's sport. I don't want to sound paranoid, but you've got to be strong. Althea Gibson went through it. She told me she had it *twice* as hard."

Besides Ashe and Gibson, the newcomer fondly regards Evonne Goolagong who gave her spirit and needed advice. Now Renee Blount feels destined for stardom someday. Fighting her way up from pre-qualifying, and demonstrating strength as a serve and volleyer, she is content playing Avon for the moment.

Nevertheless, the facts remain: Wearing Chris Evert shoes, or sporting a Goolagong creation are not enough to break into the big time. Tennis starlets should realize that coming out on top with champ Chrissie Evert or winning a 3-setter from the Queen of Wimbledon, may hold true **ONLY** on any given day.

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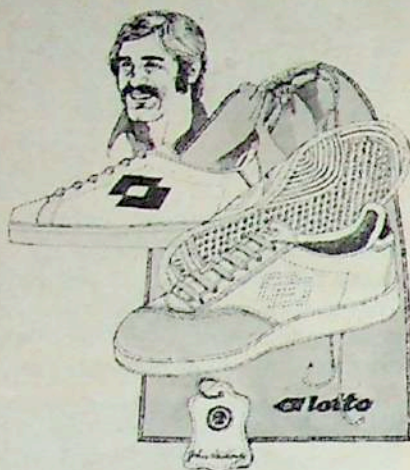
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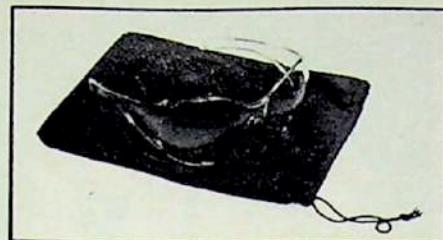
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46/RACQUET WORLD

New Products



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"The Other Eyeguard" is featured as either a complete wraparound or a folding type. It's scratchproof, comes packed in a neat felt pouch and is supplied with a headband. The product is a polycarbonate specially dipped in abcite to promote scratchproof effectiveness for long wear and better vision.

"The Other Eyeguard" in the wraparound version also can be used for bike riders. It's distortion-free, aerodynamic and features unrestricted full vision. The product is stylish and attractive, and the clear lens model can be used for night riding. Suggested retail prices range from \$12.95 to \$19.95.

Ektelon Has Free Booklet For Racquetball Players

SAN DIEGO, CA — The new Ektelon "Guide To Better Racquetball" gives racquetball players a general overview of the sport, discusses equipment selection and playing techniques and contains complete official rules of the game.

Ektelon, leading manufacturer of racquetball racquets and accessories, produced the full-color, illustrated, 24-page booklet to help beginning and intermediate players improve their games.

Request a free copy from: Ektelon, 7079 Mission Gorge Road, San Diego, CA 92120.

FREE RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT KIT

A complete racquetball tournament kit is now available free of charge from AMF Voit to all court club directors, intramural directors, schools and associations involved in organized racquetball competition.

The kit contains instructions on seeding and making the draw, samples of a suggested news release, individual scorecards and tournament draw sheets (plus order forms for both) and a full-color racquetball action poster. All materials are free to tournament directors from AMF Voit.

The poster, which measures 24 inches by 36 inches, may be displayed at courtside to demonstrate the quick pace of racquetball, the fastest-growing sport in the country.

Tournament directors may obtain their free kits by writing on letterhead to AMF Voit advertising department, 3801 South Harbor Boulevard, Santa Ana, CA. 92704. •

There's Something For Everyone

Kona Kai, the exclusive club on the tip of Shelter Island, surrounded by the magnificent San Diego Bay, offers complete recreational and health facilities to club members and their guests.

NOW ACCEPTING MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Club is now offering memberships to qualified persons, under the following categories.

Family: Initiation fee \$600., monthly dues \$35.
Business: Initiation fee \$750., monthly dues \$45.
Single Person and Non-Resident: Initiation fee \$300., monthly dues \$20.

Club Facilities Include:

- Tennis Courts for day and evening playing
- Handball & Racquetball Court
- Volleyball
- Men's & Women's Health Spas
- Olympic heated Swimming Pool
- Private Beach
- Mammoth Sun Deck
- Restaurant, Cocktail Lounge, Entertainment
- Beauty & Barber Shop
- Private Marina with Guest Slips
- 88 Spacious Guest Rooms
- 12 Meeting/Banquet Rooms
- 100 Reciprocal Private Clubs throughout the U.S. and abroad

KKC
KONA KAI CLUB

Details on any type of membership may be obtained by calling (714) 222-1191 Ext. 170 or write to: Kona Kai Club, 1551 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, California 92106.

Above: Kona Kai Tennis Club teaching pro Skip Redondo, with brother and sister Walter and Marita acting as touring pro for Kona Kai Club.